

# COUNTRY LIFE

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*Bassano*

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## MADAME COLBAN

Our frontispiece is a new portrait, taken expressly for "Country Life," of Madame Colban, wife of His Excellency Erik Andreas Colban, the Minister for Norway in London.

# COUNTRY LIFE

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## THE LANDLORD IN WAR-TIME

**L**ORD STAIR is not given to writing to the Press, and his recent letter to *The Times* registers a state of reasonable and restrained indignation which it has taken a vast accumulation of slights, burdens and inequities to produce in one who—like many of his fellow-landowners—regards the doing of his duty as more important than the airing of possible grievances. As he says, he and others like him do not grudge being taxed to the bone for the genuine prosecution of the war, but they think they are entitled to object to some of the anomalies that force themselves on their notice. The matters to which Lord Stair calls specific attention may be small, but are nevertheless symptomatic. Those who knit woollen comforts for the Forces are lucky if they can obtain the cheapest knitting wool at 5s. a pound. At the same time the Government has commandeered the whole of the sheep-raisers' fleeces at something about tenpence a pound. "I should be extremely surprised," says Lord Stair, "to hear that more than a shilling a pound has been spent in converting this wool from the state when it left the sheeps' backs to the time when it is sold to the knitters." Another point he raises is that during the recent period when it was difficult or impossible to get milk and other produce from farm to town and everybody available was employed in snow-clearing, the Labour Exchanges refused to allow unemployed to be employed to get their own food through at less than a shilling an hour, even though the district's agricultural wage was only tenpence-halfpenny an hour! Why, asks Lord Stair, if these men's labour is so valuable, should it not be employed in the fighting Forces before other able-bodied men are taken from useful employment to risk their lives for two shillings a day of twenty-four hours? This seems reasonable comment on a most unreasonable state of affairs. Lord Stair, like many more of us, objects very strongly to the squandering of our national resources on doles to the unemployables and the officials who appear to exist only to keep them so. The contrast between this high-handed *largesse* on the part of the

Government, and the demands made upon those who still continue to carry out, on their own part, the obligations they consider they were born to, is a little startling. "I have myself just received," says Lord Stair, "my demand for surtax, with special request to pay as soon as possible. The amount is almost exactly the same figure which I have just been paid for the entire timber product of fifty acres in thirty years, and which, if allowed to stand, would, without any further expenditure, have doubled its value within a very few years." *Noblesse oblige*, but the others have the right to strike. It is not very satisfactory when considered from the nation's point of view. Apart from the reckless waste of national resources, we must surely consider the fact that we are embarking to-day on a campaign of increased production which needs, if it is to be successful, a solid backing in the way of capital ; capital which has in the past been freely supplied by those who own the land and have the interests of agriculture and agricultural production at heart. It may, of course, be supplied in future out of the taxes that we pay. Civil servants in Whitehall are taking away the resources in money and working facilities of all those who know how to use them in this very traditional and highly skilled way. With regard to the land they may then show us (as they have already shown us during this war in other directions) how successful they can be in getting things wrong.

## GARDENING TO-DAY

**A**T the beginning of the war we advised readers to keep their heads as regards their gardens. "In the nation-wide determination by every individual to do his or her bit to conserve and increase Britain's food supply," we emphasised that "there is a real danger of irreparable damage being done to gardens without appreciably affecting the food situation." We instanced what happened in response to the "Grow More Food" campaign of the last war, when gardeners ploughed up their lawns, dug in their plants, and put down every available rod of ground to vegetables. The lesson learnt then holds good to-day, and it is that, so long as ample supplies of vegetables are grown, it is both uneconomic and short-sighted to do so solely at the expense of the æsthetic aspect of a garden. In war the mind needs repose and relaxation as much as the body if it is to remain efficient, and in what better way is that rest found than in the tranquillity of a garden?

Recent action by the Ministry of Agriculture confirms the wisdom of this view. When nursery gardeners were first "mobilised" for food production, they were told to "radically reduce" the areas devoted to flowers and roses under glass and to switch over to lettuces and early vegetables. Now, in a circular letter to County War Agricultural Committees, it is authorised that *half* the area formerly allotted to flowers (other than bulbs and perennials) may be retained, provided that the other half is used for vegetables ; while, under glass, 75 *per cent.* may be retained for flowers. Dr. H. V. Taylor, the Commissioner for Horticulture, has explained this revision as in recognition of the economic value of the home flower industry. From this it may be presumed that the public are encouraged to buy cut flowers. Unless the moral factor is wholly excluded from this admonition, they can surely be regarded as free to grow some for their private delectation. No objection has so far been raised to supplies of petrol for mowing-machines with which to maintain that other primary component of the flower garden—the lawns.

It appears, then, that the Ministry is satisfied that, from the normal sources *plus* partially converted nurseries, allotments, and private gardens, the supplies of fresh vegetables are likely to be adequate. It is evidently not expected that private gardeners should produce much in excess of their household requirements. To do this may very likely involve turning over some flower borders to vegetables ; rough ground should by all means be made productive, and, if a paddock be ploughed up by "miniature agriculture," as described on another page, for a crop of potatoes, so much the better. But to destroy gardens the beauty of which is part of the nation's heritage is neither required nor expected.



## COUNTRY NOTES

THE destroyer *Cossack's* enthralling mission had every element of adventure to arouse admiration and to be chronicled among the Royal Navy's historic actions. The discreditable circumstances serve but to show up by contrast the unchanging spirit of the Navy, from the clear-cut decision of the Admiralty to the dash of the boarding party, using grappling irons and fighting hand to hand in the dark. The dramatic rescue of the three hundred captives from their "floating concentration camp" would in any case have been hailed with rejoicing. Forestalling as it did a German holiday, and succeeding immediately the ovation given to the battered *Exeter* on her return to Plymouth, the episode rounded off an epic of the sea. Mr. Churchill's comparison of the Battle of the Plate to the actions of Drake and Raleigh still rang in our ears when true descendants of Drake's and Nelson's tars, cutlass in hand, snatched from beneath the very eyes of the German crowds the only poor fruits of the *Graf Spee's* "victories" over defenceless merchantmen. Captain Bell and Captain Vian and their gallant men have shown that the traditional aim of the British Navy, to close with the enemy, is as keen as ever, and that, given the chance, they push it home with the old dauntless fire.

### RE-DISPERSAL

MR. ELLIOT'S amended scheme for the evacuation of schoolchildren, or their "scattering" as Mr. A. P. Herbert would very rightly have it, profits from the lessons of the autumn. The decision, to put it into force only if and when attacks begin, is the only practical alternative to permanent separation of children from their homes, which has proved so unsatisfactory. In view of this, the risks involved must be taken. A more fundamental criticism is that there might have been a sufficient number of camp schools in existence by now had the enormous expense in money and materials been undertaken in time. Those that are completed will be used, but the Minister implied that any great increase in their number is not possible. The restriction of evacuation to children eliminates the principal element of friction in the earlier scheme. On the whole, the children were welcomed and soon adjusted themselves to country life. In innumerable cases mutual affection grew up between them and their foster-parents. The sources of real hardship are likely to be removed by the increase in the billeting allowance, by the arrangements for unclean and difficult children, and by keeping school units together. But both the latter were intended last year, the confusion arising from imperfect organisation in the reception areas. With plenty of time for preparations and no less good will among country people, there is no excuse for this better thought-out plan failing again in these particulars.

### BATEMANS FOR THE NATION

IF some people, reading the above headline, jumped to the conclusion that the nation's collections were being enriched (and enlivened) by the drawings of an eminent cartoonist, it was because most minds do not instantly connect Rudyard Kipling with the name of his home. Sussex, yes, and, perhaps, Rottingdean, where, however, he only lived for a short time. But the old ironmaster's house in the deep valley below Burwash was his home for the last half of his life, and it says much for its peaceful seclusion that the one spot "belovéd over all" that fell to him "in a fair ground" in the Sussex Weald, never became so obvious a place of pilgrimage as, for instance, did Farringford while its owner was alive. Batemans has been left to the National Trust by Mrs. Kipling, with an endowment of £5,000. The property will remain intact, with its gardens and pastures, where during the last war its owner began to keep a herd of pedigree Guernseys. An account of Kipling's farming activities, enlivened on occasion by the humours of the dray-horse, Captain, or the fall from grace of a pedigree bull, was given in COUNTRY LIFE by its former secretary a few years ago. The National Trust, which has seldom received a more precious possession, is looking for a tenant for Batemans. A condition of the

bequest is that part of the house and gardens shall be opened to visitors on Saturdays and Sundays.

### FEEDING THE BIRDS

THE B.B.C. and a host of bird enthusiasts beseech us to feed the birds; then Lord Lymington in a letter to *The Times* tells us that a hard winter is just the thing that is wanted to reduce wild birds and enable the farmer to produce more food for us. What are we to do about it? Shall we obey Broadcasting House or listen to the other side? The "other side" says that the sparrows, finches, starlings, tits, and so on, that have lately flocked so ravenously to the bird-table do not deserve what they get. They do more harm than good, and as for keeping down insect pests the stern cold of a hard winter is more effective than the birds. He who holds a brief for the birds retorts that most injurious insects are tucked away as pupæ, ova, or hibernating adults, and will be little harmed even by such severe cold as that of last month. They will emerge numerously in the spring. A strong army of birds will be needed in the interests of agriculture. It makes a pretty argument, one that might almost lead to blows, and what are we to do? Are we wrong in supposing that each one of us will do exactly what he or she did before, regardless of either side, regardless even of those who say it is not right to give good food to birds in war-time? If we see them starving in the snow, we shall take out food just the same, whatever folk may say, for it is one of the joys of life to feed birds in the garden. But we shall not grumble the less when summer comes and ungrateful tits, as described by Major Jarvis on another page, requite our charity by raiding the peas.

### FINLANDIA

There in the Arctic night and the snow and the merciless cold  
They have fought with a devil and held him and bruised him  
in head and heel;  
With incredible pain they have earned the swift obeisance of  
men,—  
Who with only the sword of the spirit have broken the sword  
of steel.

Not pride has upheld them, nor lust of dominion, as far through  
the night  
On their icy and desolate journeys they glimmered like wraiths  
to the moon,

Only the things for which men for a thousand years have died—  
Justice and friendship and peace and freedom's unpriceable boon,  
ANTHONY FETTYPLACE.

### CHICKEN FOOD

READERS of Dr. Wodehouse who admired his earlier works will not have forgotten the troubles that overtook Mr. Ukridge at Combe Regis owing to the shortage of poultry food which his creditors refused to supply. In the end, thanks to the intervention of Aunt Elisabeth, Mr. Ukridge triumphed over his adversaries and took to raising runner ducks. But the trials he underwent meanwhile are sufficient to keep his admirers constantly in mind of the strictly economic basis of poultry farming and to suggest to them the recurring possibility of what *The Times* calls an "Egg Famine." Mr. Charles Crowther, director of the National Institute of Poultry Husbandry, is almost another Ukridge. Addressing the Royal Society of Arts last week, he complained of "chaotic maldistribution of feeding-stuffs," and said that "unless a more liberal treatment could be obtained for the poultry industry than had so far been extended, no recourse to makeshift substitutes on the poultry farm, the general farm or the backyard could prevent a heavy contraction of activities and a probable egg famine before the year ended." "Whatever the facts as to the total volume of supplies," he added, "the main causative factor of trouble, annoyance and loss has been their unsatisfactory and grossly inequitable distribution." Stanley Ukridge might have said it himself; but it is none the less true. It should remind us all of the fact that you cannot ration articles of food (except in Whitehall) which have not been produced; and that rationing should start by the proper control of supplies of feeding-stuffs and of other commodities required for production.

# A COUNTRYMAN LOOKS AT THE WAR

BOGGARTS, SCARECROWS AND AFRITS—A CIGAR-SMOKING PLATOON  
—FEBRUARY PHEASANTS

By MAJOR C. S. JARVIS



BIRDS FEEDING IN THE SNOW

THE photographs from Ceylon in a recent number of COUNTRY LIFE that showed scarecrows, designed to protect crops against raiding pigs as well as birds, suggest that the Cingalese pay far more attention to the construction and decoration of these adjuncts to successful agriculture than we do. After looking at these highly coloured and superior specimens one feels rather ashamed of the shabby and raffish bundles of rags that do duty in our fields and gardens. The average scarecrow in this country consists solely of an old coat and a hat hung on crossed sticks, and it is rather an insult to the intelligence of the rook, sparrow and other grain-eating birds to imagine they are going to feel any nervousness about the effigy after one reconnoitring patrol has made a flight over it.

It has always struck me that a white or coloured mask is essential to a successful "bug-lug," boggart or scarecrow, for when shooting flighting duck or pigeons it is usually one's face that attracts attention and causes alarm. Of course, this state of affairs may be more marked in some cases than others, and to avoid giving offence I would like to make it clear that I am speaking from personal experience only. It is also a good idea to give one's scarecrow a change of clothing once a fortnight, and if one cannot afford a complete suit one should at least provide him with a different pattern hat.

MY experience of bird scaring of recent years has been concerned chiefly with pea-eating tits, and having attracted and fed the little ingrates on coconut and suet all the winter I find it a full-time job in the summer to save sufficient pods from eight rows of peas to provide one dish of the vegetables for the house. If anyone has devised a special mark of scarecrow that will deceive a tit for more than a week I shall be very glad to hear of it, but I am told that the only certain method is to accept the blackmailing conditions and feed the birds as regularly in the summer as one does in the winter.

I had a certain amount of temporary success last year with a toy balloon barrage, but the life of a balloon is so short in our climate that it would have been cheaper to buy one's peas than effect replacements. A home-made kite, shaped like a sparrow-hawk and swinging over the rows, worked like magic for ten days, but then the tits got to like him and regarded his gyrations during meals with the same enjoyment as have diners at the Savoy when watching a new Russian dancer.

THE Egyptian *fellah* has a large variety of bird scares, usually in the form of ingenious wooden and palm cane propellers that work in the wind, the cranks of which keep cords strung with strips of metal and glass constantly on the jangle. This contrivance might work in England, but one has the feeling that after erecting it there would ensue a period of dead calm for a couple of months. In every garden in Egypt, too, there is the jaw of a camel stuck up in one corner, but I discovered from my old Turkish gardener, who used the device, that this has nothing to do with birds, but is erected to keep the *afrits* (evil spirits) away. Mind you, I am not laughing at this camel jaw idea, for I have a feeling there is a lot in it. I wish I could get hold of a camel's jaw for my existing garden, as there is so much that happens in it for which there is no apparent explanation. I wonder if a horse's jaw would prove as effective.

I HAVE recently had the opportunity of seeing something of the Royal Tank Regiment, which is not remarkable, seeing that Dorset is more or less the county of this Corps' adoption. During the last war they took up their temporary abode at Bovington, and, like most temporary expediences, it has become so permanent that it has remained their country seat ever since.

The black *béret* is not the only distinguishing feature of the "Tanks," for what is even more noticeable than the Basquish headdress is the large number of pipe-smokers one sees among the O.R.'s, and pipe-smokers in the Army to-day are so rare as to be remarkable. The rank and file of our Army began to discard the pipe about the same time as the pioneers of battalions shaved off their beards and ceased to march immediately behind the band with their axes at the slope, and this is a good many years ago. Round about 1912 the cigarette had obtained such a firm hold that Higher Command became worried. They talked it over with the R.A.M.C., who agreed with them that the cigarette was pernicious and pulmonary, and that something ought to be done about it. The result was an order framed to strike at cigarette-smoking, and I am not certain if it was general throughout the country or whether it functioned only in the Southern Command, but the edict went forth that men on the march would be allowed to smoke pipes or cigars, but not cigarettes. The cigar touch was, of course, deliciously naïve, and was probably inserted by the General as an afterthought when it occurred to him that the order would affect him as much as the men; but it caused ribald hilarity among the troops, for one cannot sustain a Corona complex on 1s. a day.

UNFORTUNATELY for the order, in one of the battalions there was a subaltern with just that hint of humorous insubordination in his general make-up that in the Army leads either to very early retirement or extremely rapid promotion. The cigar order struck him as being the most incongruous and unconsciously funny thing he had ever met, and the temptation to pull the official leg was too strong for him.

The battalion was coming down a lane at the end of a long field day and the General and staff with the Colonel were sitting on their horses watching the companies as they swung past marching at ease. The General had just asked how the order about cigarettes was working and the Colonel had assured him it was having a wonderful effect.

"A very sensible order, sir; nearly all the men have taken to pipes again," he said, untruthfully and sycophantically, and at that moment there came rolling down the column that particular form of raucous laughter that emanates from troops when higher ranks are discomfited in any way. The type of laughter one hears when the Colonel's chair breaks under him at the camp-fire concert, or the Sergeant-major falls flat on his face in the mud in front of the battalion. The cause of the unholy joy on this occasion was No. 4 Platoon, C Company, for they came striding along in a cloud of smoke, and fixed firmly in every man's face at a most aggressive angle was a six-inch Panatella complete with coloured band. The only person to strike a discordant note in this very plutocratic platoon was the subaltern, who discreetly was smoking a very small pipe!

THE extension of the pheasant season for an additional month has met with a mixed reception: some shooting journalists have greeted it as a sensible and much-needed move, others have deplored the effect it will have on next season's stock of birds, while those who suffer from the shortage of home-killed meat welcome the prospect of another month of game.

It is very difficult to form an opinion on a subject like this, because to arrive at the truth of the situation one would have to travel over an enormous area of country interviewing countless shoot-owners and farmers; but the general impression seems to be that, owing to the shortage of guns, pheasants have not been shot off sufficiently. If I had to speak for my own particular small corner of the country, I would say that there has been no shortage of guns but, on the other hand, a marked shortage of pheasants, and that the majority of those remaining are in very poor condition; which proves the danger of generalisation.

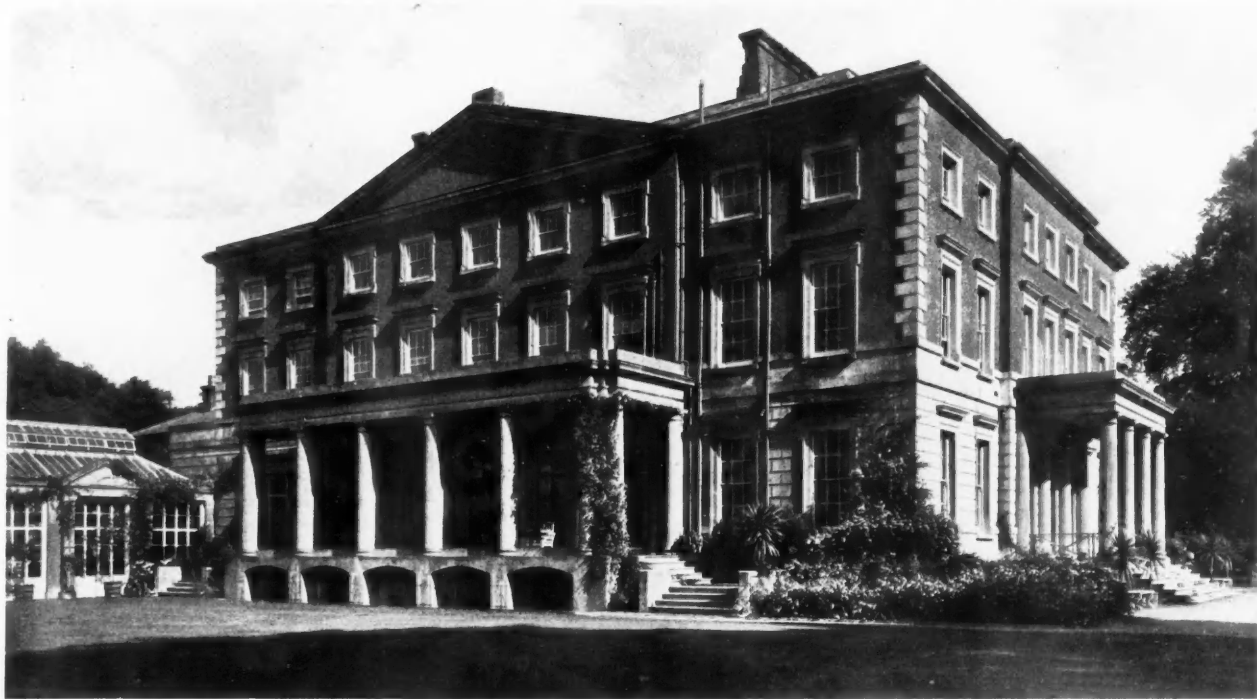
AT this time of the year, particularly this year, there is no natural food in the woods and fields—the lean condition of the wild pigeons proves this—and it is feared that the surplus pheasants will help themselves to the seed corn, kale and swede tops of the farmers, and this of course, has brought the bird-loving crank into the arena to prove that the pheasant is solely an insect-feeder. I am only waiting for the day when some bird-lover, in defence of a very destructive species, will provide convincing proof that it attacks Heinkel bombers!

I should imagine that the extension of the season will do very little harm, because the owner of a shoot is certainly not going to wipe out his breeding stock because the law permits him to do so. The same applies to syndicates, except possibly where they do not intend to continue their tenancy—a sordid thought this; and as for the raiding pheasant and crops, well, well!—the old distressing picture of the ruined farmer watching his seed corn being eaten up by the pheasants of the plutocrats has been out of date for quite a number of years. Those particular pheasants will go into the same oven as did their predecessors of last year and the year before, and the fact that their demise has now been made semi-legal will not affect the situation, nor their flavour, one jot.



## MEMORIES OF BUXTED

### ART TREASURES LOST IN THE RECENT FIRE



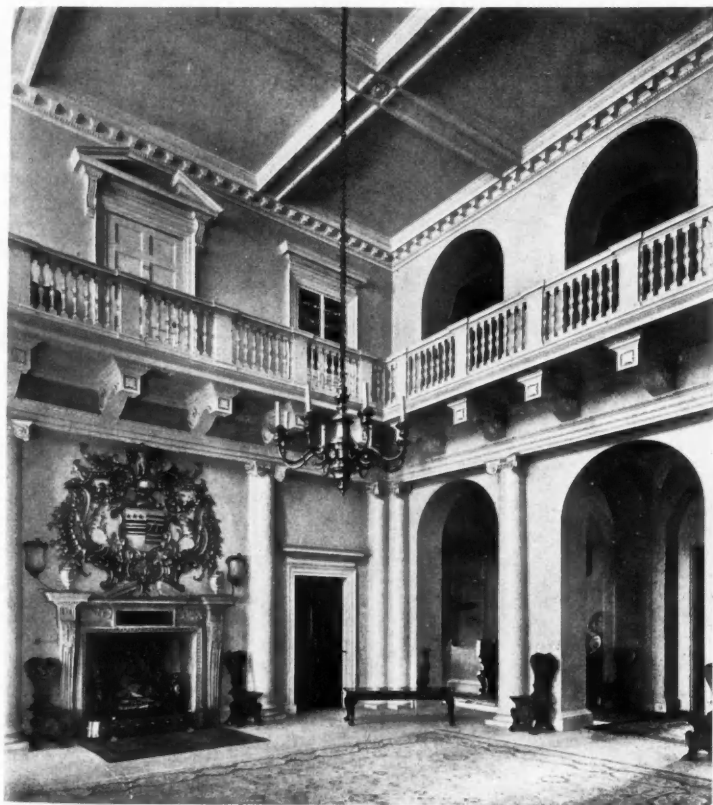
ON THE GARDEN SIDE A LONG LOGGIA SHADED THE LIBRARY WINDOWS

IT may seem to show a lack of sense of proportion to dwell on the destruction of a single English country house when whole nations are being rendered homeless and most of Europe's great buildings and art treasures are in jeopardy. Yet Buxted Park was so exceptional in the charm of its decoration and the preciousness of its contents that their loss by an accidental fire on the night of February 2nd-3rd is just as deplorable as if it had been the result of deliberate bombardment. Such is the wealth of England in beautiful country houses that much the same could be said of several hundred others, many of which are more important as architectural or historic monuments.

But several other circumstances put Buxted in a group the loss of which one would have said would be especially unfortunate.

Ten years ago the place was in the market and was on the point of being handed over to the house-breaker and timber merchant when Mr. and Mrs. Ionides came to the rescue. The park, lying high on a spur of Ashdown Forest between Crowborough and Lewes, is remarkable for the beauty of its timber, especially Scots fir and limes, which had in many cases to be bought back tree by tree. During the succeeding decade the new owners, both well known collectors of works of art with uncommonly good judgment, filled the house with choice things which, with their talent for sympathetic arrangement, they combined to form an exceptionally interesting and attractive home rather than a collection of valuable pieces. There were outstanding things, but great numbers also of relatively unimportant but charming, amusing, and decorative objects in which the visitor soon took as much delight as his host and hostess. Since the beginning of the war these cleverly selected *ensembles* had been somewhat unbalanced by the evacuation to Buxted of the more valuable of the contents of Mrs. Ionides' house in Berkeley Square, which comprised her famous collection of Battersea enamels—the work of a lifetime and of national importance. These were, providentially, saved, as was Mr. Ionides' collections of clocks and of Chinese porcelain made for the European market—the latter a no less unique contribution to connoisseurship. But it is difficult not to think that much else had to be sacrificed which might have been saved if these important collections had not had first claim on the rescuers. Among the losses were two very important Zoffanys, "The Drummond Family at Cadland," seen at Sir Philip Sassoon's exhibition of Conversation Pieces, and "The Rev. W. Hunloke and his Wife." But every room was full of treasures—four-poster beds, fine mirrors, chairs and cabinets, choice *garnitures*, memorable rugs and carpets, attractive old pictures—indeed, everything to delight the connoisseur.

The house was a square brick, early Georgian building with a stable court lying to one side and surrounded on the other three with charming old gardens notable for unusual shrubs and noble trees between which one looked across the Weald towards Mount Harry and Fittle Beacon. It was built in about 1725 by Thomas Medley, the son of a Turkey merchant who had bought the property a few years previously. Early in the nineteenth century it was inherited by the third Earl of Liverpool, who received visits here from the Duchess of Kent and her daughter Victoria, both as Princess and Queen. Later the property passed to the Portman family and for some years was the home of Lord Portman when Bryanstone, the family's Dorset home, was converted into a school.



A GALLERIED HALL OCCUPIED THE MIDDLE OF THE HOUSE





THE YELLOW DRAWING-ROOM



IN THE CHINESE ROOM



QUEEN VICTORIA'S BEDROOM

Lord Liverpool made considerable alterations to the house in about 1810, forming a long sunny library along the south front with a loggia attached. But in the main it was largely as the Medleys had built it, with a square galleried hall in the middle and the living-rooms leading into one another round it. Over the two fireplaces in the hall were exciting rococo decorations in carved and gilt wood enshrining the Medley arms.

As one came into the house, from the north, a sitting-room, known as the Yellow Drawing-room, lay on the left, with a yellow flock paper and containing mostly mahogany and walnut furniture. The big carved and gilt mirror over the fireplace, made up of squares of glass, came from Hamilton Palace, the great Georgian house of the Dukes of Hamilton near Glasgow, pulled down twenty years ago. To the right was the dining-room, which was interesting as containing relics of several great houses recently dispersed; red and white chenille damask curtains from Hornby Castle, a set of chairs from Drakelow, a Hudson portrait of Lady Egmont from Avon Castle, a portrait in a Kent frame of the eighth Lord Coventry as a boy, of a type similar to the Winchester "leaving portraits" still at the college.

In the middle of the east side, and looking down a vista towards Pevensey, was a room with a mellow old Chinese wallpaper and dark lacquer furniture, delicious on a hot day. But one of the things I remember best hung in the corner room next it, which contained a number of small unusual portraits. It was a little full-length portrait by Stubbs, in water-colour, of a lady and gentleman, painted in bright pastel colours. It was as charming as uncommon.

The long library, with the evening sun streaming in, was a golden room—gold scagliola pillars along one side repeating the yellow sandstone pillars of the loggia outside; satinwood or gilt furniture; and glorious rugs bringing in the deeper hues of mahogany doors and old books. There was especially a lovely eighteenth-century English carpet that occupied the middle of the floor and in which yellow was the predominant colour, and it was here that there was a particularly fine inlaid semicircular Chipendale commode of satinwood, and all, including the books, have apparently been lost.

In the decoration of the rooms a great deal of thought had been put into making each an attractive room in itself. In themselves they were spacious and well proportioned, but for the most part without much applied ornament beyond a handsome chimneypiece and a moulded cornice and door-cases. The general method employed was to keep the walls light and cheerful, either with a paint of a pastel shade or, in many of the bedrooms, with one of the neat formal wallpapers in clean colours that have recently become available. The flock paper in the Yellow Drawing-room was actually specially printed from old blocks by Messrs. Sanderson. In all the rooms a delightful feature was the curtain draperies, whether of transparent silk or coloured damasks. At the time this revival of the Regency fashion for draperies was quite new, and its success is attested by the popularity that the style has since obtained. But though each room and its contents was thought out to combine colour, comfort, and character, they were well related to each other, and the heavier colouring in the Chinese Room or the Blue Room made for variation.

For ten years Mr. and Mrs. Ionides made Buxted a happy resort for their many friends. Since the war those week-ends among beautiful things and good company had come to an end, but the house's hospitality was given to the Royal Society of Arts, which occupied



THE LONG REGENCY LIBRARY: "A GOLDEN ROOM"

a wing. That at least was saved. The fire seems to have originated in a chimney stack—as was the case with Stoke Edith, a house of similar type, some twelve years ago, also in cold frosty weather. The Georgian builders had a way of running wooden joists into chimney-breasts, instead of into external walls only. Eventually, the joints in the brickwork at the end of the joist perish, and on some night when a larger fire than usual is stoked

up, the end of the beam becomes ignited. If the beam is in the roof, and the roof catches alight, there is little that can be done. It was a grim coincidence that this sad loss took place as if to illustrate an article published in these pages last week on the wisdom of fully insuring the contents of a house even though war risks have to be excluded; and no less of having a complete inventory of its contents. CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.



THE DRUMMOND FAMILY AT CADLAND, BY ZOFFANY  
One of the pictures that were burnt



# THE FARMER'S WAR

THE COUNTIES SURVEYED. II.—SUFFOLK

By LORD CRANWORTH

*Naturally an arable county, Suffolk has suffered as much as any from shrinkage of ploughland in recent years. The area required to be ploughed is 26,000 acres, and much of it involves definite reclamation.*



J. Dixon-Scott

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TURNING-IN LATE SUMMER POTATOES NEAR A TYPICAL SUFFOLK VILLAGE, HOLT STREET

**S**UFFOLK is predominantly an arable county, and is faced with the problems accruing to arable farming while it is spared some of those which pertain to a grass county endeavouring to make a worthy contribution to the plough.

Thus generally speaking we have the necessary tractors and implements for our increased acreage, and at the present a more or less adequate supply of men who know how to use them. The county is divided for administrative purposes into East and West Suffolk, and the quota set in the initial campaign is 11,000 acres for West Suffolk, which has already been exceeded, and 15,000 for East Suffolk, of which over 14,000 has been obtained.

This is a part of the country which shows since 1920 a very heavy shrinkage of land under the plough. Some of our lost acres have been absorbed by building, afforestation, and the rapacity of the roads, but our main loss is due to the financial inability of farmers to continue the practice in which they were brought up. Our best land is still farmed and farmed well, if not up to the high standard which a century ago made Suffolk farming a household word. The law of diminishing returns sees to that. But thousands of acres of the less productive land have emptied the pockets and broken the hearts of those who owned and farmed them and now lie derelict and desolate. It is, in the main, from these acres that the ultimate increase in production must be obtained. Good pastures are now being broken, and it is, of course, from these that the greatest increase of food from the 1940 crop will be ob-

tained, but it is probable that the desirable limit of the sacrifice of good permanent grass has almost been reached.

Of the 25,000 acres already achieved, it may be said that the great bulk were given voluntarily and as the result of the appeal to patriotism. This, it seems to me, was a fine effort, since, when the grass was given, the farmers who offered it had every reason to believe that the breaking up of their meadows would involve them in financial loss. There were, and are, admittedly certain farmers to whom their pockets represent the main consideration, but they are happily a very small minority, and there are many more whose resources in patriotism are vastly greater than those in cash. To-day the trend of prices makes it likely that the breaking up of good grass will in fact show an adequate return, which, at all events, makes the task of county committees considerably easier.

In East Suffolk the land to be reclaimed falls into two definite categories: (1) the large stretches of light, sandy, bracken-growing soil known as "breck" land, which used to be farmed through the aid of heavy dressings of chalk and the folding of sheep on crops of white turnips, lupins and mustard; (2) the areas of heavy boulder clay capable of producing fine crops, given intensive cultivation and careful attention to drainage. Both classes of land have been lost for the simple reason that under the agricultural policy of the last twenty years they could only have been cultivated at a loss. Indeed, in only too many cases the owners and occupiers



MR. E. J. GAYMER,  
Executive Officer, East Suffolk



MR. STUART PAUL  
Chairman, E. Suffolk War Agricultural Committee



Elliott & Fry

MR. CLEMENT SMITH  
Chairman, Gipping District Committee



have ruined themselves in the hopeless effort at carrying on. Yet both classes of soil are potentially more productive than land that has long been intensively cultivated in Germany.

The reclamation of these two descriptions of land presents very different problems. The light land, if chalked and cultivated, can produce a crop of sorts: oats or, more usually, rye. Draining will not be required, and the scope of the fields facilitates tractor work. On the other hand, the annual return will inevitably be comparatively light, and one fears that most of this type of land is likely to revert to sheep walks after the war is won. With the heavy land, generally speaking, the situation is this. The land has produced good crops and is capable of doing so again, but at what a cost! The first essential is drainage, and what do we find? The ditches, which should be four or five feet deep, are level with the surrounding ground, and in many cases are enclosed by three or four yards or more of thick thorns and elm shoots, a fine harbour for rabbits. The field itself is very likely interspersed with clumps of bushes and brambles amid a tangle of watergrass, rushes and speargrass, a sorry sight indeed. To reclaim such land the first task is to clear the ditches, and when this is done more likely than not the old drainage pipes will be disclosed and will start functioning again. As I have said, Suffolk was well farmed once, *because good farming paid*. Then, if the weather permits, the tangled herbage may be burnt, but it is more probable that resort may have to be made to the gyrotiller. Mole draining may be desirable and probably a summer fallow, and

tary co-operation, and a new weapon has recently been placed in our hands. Probably the price of their carcasses has been their most potent enemy. We are just starting our attack on sparrows, and the battle is joined with the marauding pigeon. Landowners and syndicates are drastically cleaning down their pheasants, and I doubt if any will be reared during the next season.

Other activities are connected with the supply of tractors and other implements, a task that will grow with the summer. But the greatest amount of detailed work has undoubtedly been with the certification of applications for the £2 ploughing subsidy. Every field has first to be identified on the Ordnance map, often no easy task, and then personally inspected, in many cases twice. While that is being concluded, mole drainage certificates demand similar work. In Suffolk the large bulk of this inspection falls on farmers serving on district committees, since in the county we have an infinitesimal reserve of officials to utilise, though such as we have do noble work.

#### THE DEBT TO SUFFOLK FARMERS

But if Suffolk farmers grumble they have some reason so to do. Few outside their own farming circle realise the terrible times they have experienced during the last few years. Kind words and sympathy they have had in abundance, but you cannot feed and educate a family, let alone maintain the fertility of a farm, on sympathy only. Moreover, grumble or not, they will once again deliver the goods if it is humanly possible. The



J. Dixon-Scott

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#### IN THE HIGH ARABLE COUNTRY ROUND KERSEY

The best corn-growing land in Suffolk has never ceased to be farmed, and farmed very well

then at last will be the prospect of a good wheat crop the ensuing year. Yes, but at the cost of how much time and money, which may indeed run into £12 or £15 an acre. What a tragedy it is.

Now a word about draining. The Government are doing something, and we are not ungrateful. Assistance has been given to streams and watercourses, and now is added a grant towards the cost of mole drainage. But there remains a gap: the ditches.\* Yet they are a vital link, for, without a ditch in proper order, mole drainage is useless, and worse than useless. It seems to me a grave mistake not to return to the system of 1926, which covered the entire drainage system.

While, generally speaking, we have no serious labour shortage, there is every prospect of a seasonal one, first in the spring when sugar beet is singled, and again in the autumn when it is lifted. As yet no great use has been made of the Women's Land Army, but the need for their help will come, without a doubt. Not only will they be invaluable with the sugar beet and at the corn harvest, but there is a variety of skilled and semi-skilled work for which they can and will qualify. Such work includes milking and taking the milk round, thatching, helping with stock, and even driving the tractor. Farmers are conservative, but if the war lasts through the summer they will be glad enough to take all the assistance that is available.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S TASK

One of the tasks set to War Agricultural Committees is to deal with pests. Of these Suffolk has her full share. Rabbits, rats, sparrows, pigeons, are like the poor! In a less degree come excessive numbers of rooks, jackdaws, starlings and pheasants. Against rats we have concluded a successful campaign, and soon we shall start another. The legal machinery to compel the killing of rabbits has been cumbersome, but we have had good volun-

nation should know, but undoubtedly does not, something of the amount of work which is being voluntarily undertaken by working farmers on county war agricultural committees, district committees, sub-committees, or as parish correspondents. They were whole-time workers before, but they have shouldered the additional hours and days of uncongenial work without demur. It is work that is helping to win the war and is easing the burden on our mercantile marine, and that is their reward.

In East Suffolk the work, as far as is possible, is done by the Executive Committee and by the district committees. Indeed, we have only one sub-committee, *i.e.*, Drainage. The Executive Committee is constituted as follows: *Chairman*, Mr. Stuart Paul, director of Messrs. R. and W. Paul and one of the largest and most successful breeders of pedigree stock and horses in the county, also Chairman of District Committee; *Lady Cranworth*, Chairman of the Women's Land Army; *Mr. Clement Smith*, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the County Council and also of the Eastern Counties Farmers' Co-op, a former President of the Council of Agriculture and of the Farmers' Club, Chairman of District Committee; *Mr. R. W. Turner*, secretary of the Suffolk National Union of Agricultural Workers; *Mr. J. W. Rickeard*, Past Chairman Suffolk N.F.U., member Milk Marketing Board, Chairman District Committee; *Mr. F. W. Chartres*, a prominent land agent, Chairman District Committee; *Major R. C. Ridley*, Past Chairman Suffolk N.F.U., Chairman District Committee; *myself*; *Mr. E. J. Gaymer* and *Mr. P. Reed* are the most efficient Executive Officer and Secretary and form an admirable combination. With their aid the work goes on, and the end of the war will, I trust, see British agriculture in far better shape than did its beginning. It will be for the people of this land and the Government which they elect to see that it is never allowed to slip back again into the deplorable condition of the last few years.

\*It is possible that by a somewhat cumbersome process a grant may in future be obtainable for certain ditches, but the position is not clear.

## THE SHRUBS OF SPRING

**N**OT for ten years at least—the winter of 1929, to be exact—have the elements been so consistently hostile to gardeners all over the country as during the last three months, when almost every kind of winter climatic excess has been experienced. Conditions during January, if they broke no meteorological records, were at least

severe enough to prompt research into the annals of the past to discover their equal, and it seems fairly certain, if the opinion of the elder members of the present generation is to be relied on, that not since the renowned winter of 1895 has such a harsh visitation been witnessed. For a week or two in mid-January the thermometer hovered within a few degrees of zero in many places, and below it in others, and over a wide area in the south and west there was experienced that curious phenomenon called the silver thaw, when the rain froze as it fell, coating the leaves, stems and branches of trees and shrubs with a glaze of ice, a kind of *marron glacé* which lasted for several days and has caused irreparable damage to many trees and ancient specimen shrubs through the breaking and rending of their branches by the weight of their ice burden.

Such conditions of severe cold, which have continued without respite since mid-December (a much more fortunate state of affairs than alternating periods of frost and thaw), have naturally checked the awakening of vegetation and put back the flowering date of many of those precocious treasures that we have been accustomed to see giving freely of their blossoms through January and February. It is only a pleasure deferred, however, for most of these early beauties seem to have taken little ill from the harsh January onslaught, and in response to the first fitful bursts of sunshine and warmth, will put forth their flowers and be as lovely

as ever. The only notable exception, so far as can be seen at present, is that delightful cherry, *Prunus subhirtella autumnalis*, which was so advanced, and indeed was in full panoply of blossom, when the December cold struck it, that its flower buds, which promised well for the early spring, have been completely shrivelled like brown paper. Others, however, like the lovely little tree

called *Prunus Davidiana*, the Chinese witch-hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*), Farrer's lovely viburnum from Kansu, *V. fragrans*, and its more recently introduced and even more beautiful cousin from Bhutan named *V. grandiflorum*, the well known *Mezereum*, and the Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), are all among the untouched in a casualty list that is heavy enough in all conscience, and will provide a pageant in a week or two's time that will be doubly welcome this year.

Notwithstanding these difficult times and straitened finances, the claims of these mid-winter and early spring beauties deserve full

recognition by those who have not hitherto enjoyed their gifts. There could hardly be any more appropriate addition to the ornamental part of the garden this year than a few of these treasures. They have the virtues of being permanent, economical in upkeep, and of growing in beauty with the years. Stocks of them in nurseries, if reports are to be believed, have never been better, and the gardener will not only be doing himself but also the nurseryman, a good turn in planting a few. It goes without saying that in most gardens the beautiful old Mediterranean *laurostictus*, *Daphne Mezereum*, and the winter jasmine find an honoured place, but the same cannot be said of such equally worthy and beautiful things as the Chinese witch hazel and *Viburnum fragrans*. The former has shown itself indifferent to the worst our climate has to offer by its behaviour this year.



THE BLOSSOM CLUSTERS OF THE JAPANESE WEEPING ROSEBUD CHERRY, *PRUNUS SUBHIRTILLA PENDULA*



Blanche Henrey

THE CHINESE WITCH-HAZEL  
*HAMAMELIS MOLLIS*



THE GRACEFUL GREENISH TASSELS  
OF *GARRYA ELLIPTICA*



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THE FEBRUARY-FLOWERING  
*STACHYURUS PRAECOX*



Despite all the cold, its naked branches were strung with its curious strap-shaped golden yellow blossoms a fortnight or more ago. *Viburnum fragrans*, "the most glorious of all shrubs" as Farrer called it, has behaved equally well, and along with its cousin, *V. grandiflorum*, which carries shorter clusters of larger, pure white, scented flowers that are flushed with pink when they open, should not be overlooked by anyone in search of winter cheer.

One or two of the cherries invariably present a charming picture against a winter sky, and of these the palm might well be given to David's peach (*Prunus Davidiana*), whose dusky twigs are transformed into garlands of white blossoms under the beneficent influence of February sunshine. It is a lovely tree, this peach named in honour of its discoverer, the French missionary Armand David, and it well deserves to share the widespread recognition of some of its kith and kin, like the purple-leaved plum, *P. Pissartii*. Conrad's cherry (*P. Conradinae*) is another which leaves the favoured *Pissartii* far behind in beauty. It is of more spreading habit than *P. Davidiana*, and carries rather bell-shaped flesh pink blossoms. A form with semi-double carmine flowers called *semi-plena*, if less robust than the type, is also well worth



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THE SPRING-FLOWERING SPIRÆAS *S. ARGUTA*

having, and where there is room, the Fuji cherry, *P. incisa*, which is more of a shrub than a tree, *P. yedoensis*, and the March-flowering almonds, especially the large, white-flowered *macrocarpa* and the bright pink *Pollardii*, deserve to be added to the list along with the rosebud cherry, *P. subhirtella*, and its variants *autumnalis*, of which the deep pink form called *rubra* is the most desirable, and *pendula*.

The winter sweet (*Chimonanthus fragrans*), which might well be tried in a border more often than it is, the uncommon *Stachyurus præcox*, and the winter honeysuckles *Lonicera fragrantissima*, *Standishii* and their hybrid descendant named *L. Purpusii*, are not without attraction, if not perhaps in the same flight as some of the early-flowering rhododendrons like *R. mucronulatum*, *moupinense*, Christmas Cheer, *R. dauricum* and its lovely offspring *R. præcox*. The winter-flowering heaths and their variety of forms, like the incomparable Springwood, need no praise here, nor does the Oregon grape, *Mahonia aquifolium*, as good in flower as it is in leaf, and that is saying a good deal, and the best of all the forsythias, *F. intermedia spectabilis*, which never fails to enliven the March landscape with its splash of gold. These should have a place in every garden for the sake of their late winter and early spring beauty along with some of their rivals in charm like the lovely *spiræa arguta*, each bush an argosy of tiny white blossoms in March, and its cousins, the corylopsis and the earlier of the cydonias. G. C. TAYLOR.

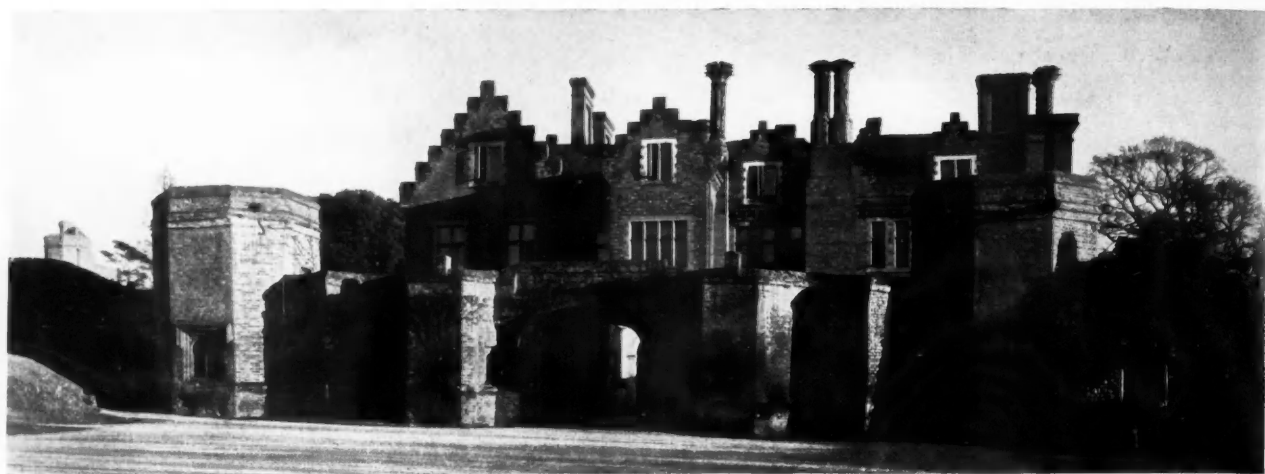


AN ARISTOCRAT OF THE SPRING DISPLAY, FORSYTHIA *INTERMEDIA SPECTABILIS*



Blanche Henrey Copyright  
ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF EARLY SPRING. THE GOLDEN  
YELLOW SCENTED BLOSSOMS OF THE OREGON GRAPE,  
*MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM*





1.—THE NORTH FRONT WITH THE OUTER GATE AND CORNER TOWERS OF THE FORECOURT

## ROYDON HALL, EAST PECKHAM, KENT

THE SEAT OF MR. RALPH M. COOK

*Built by Thomas Roydon in 1535, and afterwards the home of the Twysdens, the house with its terraced gardens is notable for its early Tudor brickwork.*

WHEN Thomas Roydon, just over four centuries ago, built his fine new house overlooking the Weald of Kent, he christened it "Fortune," using one of those conceits so dear to the Tudor age. Henry VIII's "Nonsuch" and his less famous "Beaulieu"—the name which he gave to New Hall, his palace in Essex—set a precedent which one would have expected to have been more widely followed. But we are by instinct a conservative race, and it is only quite recently that a volatile age has indulged its whims and fancies over names—house names as well as Christian names. "Fortune" evidently stuck in the

throats of good Kentish men, so that for the name by which Thomas Roydon called his mansion there soon came to be substituted his own. Roydon or Roydon Hall it has been ever since it passed to the Twysdens, who obtained it through its builder's daughter, Elizabeth, and were not ashamed of their Roydon blood.

They had no reason to be, for Thomas Roydon was no upstart, as his choice of name might seem to imply. He came of an old East Anglian family, long seated at Raydon in Suffolk. Belonging, however, to a junior line—his father had a small estate at Ramsey in Essex—he began life with meagre prospects,



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2.—LOOKING THROUGH THE TUDOR GATEWAY TO THE PORCH

"Country Life"



3.—LOOKING SOUTH-EAST ALONG THE UPPER TERRACE



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4.—THE TERRACED GARDENS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE

"Country Life"



5.—THE WEST SIDE OF THE HOUSE:  
TUDOR CHIMNEYS AND CROWSTEPPED  
GABLES



6.—ONE OF THE CORNER TOWERS FROM INSIDE THE  
FORECOURT

On the left is seen a fireplace of one of the porters' rooms

particularly as he was a younger son. But fortune smiled on him—history does not relate how. By some means, between 1504, when he was little more than twenty years of age and was disputing with his brother his right to a scanty patrimony, and 1511, when he married Margaret Whetenhall of East Peckham, the place that was to become his home, he had succeeded in laying the foundations of a substantial estate in Kent. One of the trustees of his marriage settlement was George, Lord Abergavenny, and as three years later he is found in command of ninety-one men in that nobleman's service, it was doubtless to his powerful protection that Thomas Roydon owed his rise. By 1521 he could already describe himself as "of East Peckham," but it was not until 1536 that he obtained by purchase

from Sir Edward Nevill, Lord Abergavenny's brother, the manor of Lomewood, *alias* Broomes, which enabled him to round off his estate. In that year his elder son, George, was married to Sir Edward's daughter. Meanwhile, he had been building the present house, which, as an inscription on the inner entrance doorway records, was erected (or probably completed) in 1535.

In the course of a nineteenth-century restoration the building has been badly handled, but it still to a large extent preserves its original Tudor character, in its courtyard plan, its finely ornamented brick chimneys, and the gateway, walls and towers of its outer court and terraced gardens (Figs. 1-4). The site which Thomas Roydon chose is a fine one, commanding views west, south and east over some of the richest land in England. Lying almost midway between Tonbridge and Maidstone and just south of Mereworth, East Peckham covers the slopes of an outlying hill, rising steeply above the Kentish Weald. Geologically it belongs to the ridge that runs parallel to but south of the loftier and more continuous range of the chalk downs; it is the ridge from which the Kentish ragstone is quarried, but the breach in it made by the Medway separates the height on which Peckham stands from the main portion that runs eastward through the Boughtons and Sutton Valence. Roydon lies half way up, on the west side of the hill, on another spur of which stands the church, and the steep slope of the rise above the house afforded Thomas Roydon a good opportunity for laying out a series of terraces to his gardens, which are still a feature of the place.

It is not often that a house of the size and age of Roydon is found without having an appurtenant manor, but until Thomas Roydon acquired the original small property it is doubtful whether it had a house upon it, or, if there was one, it was, as Philipot says, "of no great account." The manor of East Peckham itself was a possession of the Prior and Convent of Canterbury, until Henry VIII dissolved it, while Hextal, the principal seat in the parish, belonged to the Whetenhall family, into which Thomas Roydon married. It may, therefore, have been a virgin site on which he built his house of "Fortune." With its main front facing nearly due north, it is approached by a drive winding up from the road from Paddock Wood and bringing you to the brick gateway and flanking towers of the outer court (Fig. 1). Even in Henry VIII's reign considerations of defence had not been entirely abandoned in the designs of houses, although their towers, gates and battlements were more for decorative or antiquarian effect than for serious use. Thomas Roydon adhered to tradition, but the fortified design must always have been one of appearance rather than reality.



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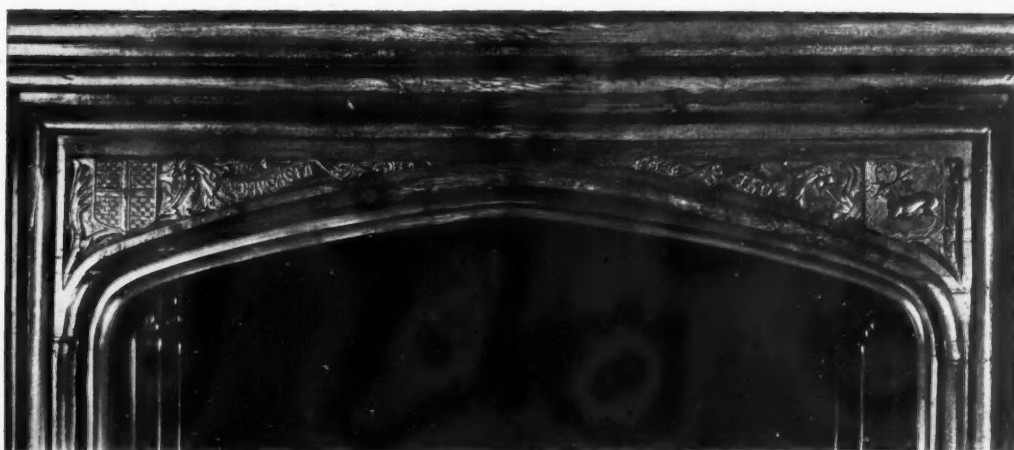
"Country Life"

7.—THE SOUTHERN OF THE TWO GARDEN PAVILIONS



In the course of time most of the outer gateways and forecourt walls of early Tudor houses have been swept away, so that these outworks of Roydon Hall are among the few surviving examples. They are not on the imposing scale of the brick gate-tower of Lullingstone Castle; rather they are comparable with the miniature brick gate-houses of Erwarthon Hall, Suffolk, and Beckingham Hall, Essex, in Thomas Roydon's native East Anglia. The gateway is flanked by projecting bastions in which were porters' rooms that, with their fireplaces and look-out windows, recall guard-houses. Moreover, as the upper doorway in Fig. 6 shows, there was a raised walk running the full width of the forecourt and connecting the octagonal towers at the angles. That the danger of attack was not considered serious, however, is shown by the two-light windows in these towers, each framed with brick hood-moulds. The gate-house itself was, no doubt, higher. The upper part and the inner walls have been removed, and in the course of repairs the four-centred arch of moulded brickwork has acquired an almost oggee shape (Fig. 2). Within the forecourt the original connecting wall remains on the left, but that on the right has been replaced by offices.

The house itself was built as an enclosed quadrangle, but the inner court was covered over in 1870 to make a staircase hall. The original inner doorway of moulded oak with four-centred head remains (Fig. 8), each spandrel being carved with a shield, early Renaissance arabesques and an inscribed scroll. In the left-hand one are the Roydon arms (checky argent and gules a cross azure) with the inscription that dates the house: "DOMUS ISTA FUIT EDITA 1535." The "buck lodged" in the right-hand shield appears to have been used by Thomas Roydon as his crest; beside it is his motto, "COME IE TROVE," which also appears in the panelling of the parlour. Although the four outer walls are substantially those of the Tudor house, only the western one has escaped extensive alteration, and it is on this side (Fig. 5) that the finest Tudor brickwork remains. There are three crow-stepped gables and a magnificent pair of chimneys with spiral ornament and moulded bases and caps; the three gable windows retain their original moulded brick windows, and below them runs a stringcourse with corbel table in cusped brickwork similar to those on Fox's tower at Farnham, illustrated a few weeks ago. This corbel table is returned along the right-hand portion of the entrance front (Fig. 1), where three more original chimney stacks remain—one attached to



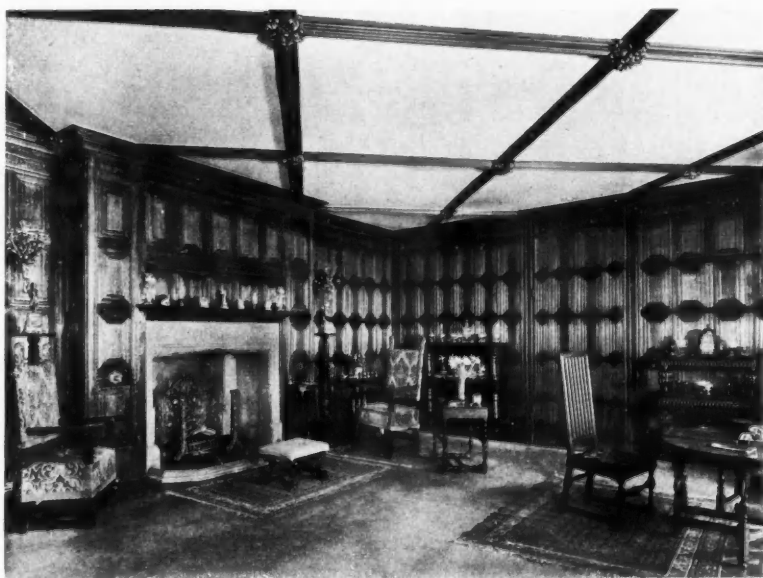
8.—THE INNER ENTRANCE DOORWAY, WITH THOMAS ROYDON'S ARMS AND MOTTO, AND THE DATE, 1535

the porch and a pair to the right of it, each displaying a different moulded pattern. All the windows on this front and the crow-stepped gables date only from the reconstruction of 1870, and the crude colour and texture of the nineteenth-century brick contrasts painfully with the mellow beauty of the Tudor work.

Thomas Roydon probably enclosed the whole site of house and gardens with an outer wall of brick, but it is only above the terraces to the east that a section remains terminated by the two garden pavilions. Both are octagonal structures, but the southern one (Fig. 7) is the larger of the two. It has a staircase turret attached to it, which houses an old clock bearing the date 1764, and its octagonal room is provided with a fireplace and garderobe. The northern turret retains its original newel stair of hewn timber. The wall between these two belvederes has a series of small recesses (one of them is visible in Fig. 4), which may have been provided for beehives. From the upper terrace (Fig. 3) a delightful view opens southward over the lawns and down the park looking out across the Weald, but the near view of the house is marred by the aggressive colour of the brickwork on this east side.

When Thomas Roydon died in 1557, his heir was a grandson of the same name, who died eight years later at the age of twenty. The elder son, George, had been executed in 1541 for being mixed up in the hunting affray at Laughton in Sussex, when Lord Dacre and his friends were indicted for the murder of a keeper in Nicholas Pelham's park. The younger son had also died in his father's lifetime, so that in accordance with the settlement made by Thomas Roydon, his estates passed to his daughters. One of these was Elizabeth, Lady Golding, who had married as her first husband William Twysden of Chelmington. In 1573 she bought out her sister's interests in the East Peckham estate, and so "the Capitall messuage called Fortune" and the lands attached to it came to her son, Roger Twysden, whose home was at Wye, near Ashford.

Space permits but the barest allusion to this old Kent family which sprang from Twysenden in the Wealden parish of Goudhurst. Only last year there appeared posthumously the late Sir John Twysden's exhaustive study, "The Family of Twysden and Twysden," the result of a lifetime's research among his family archives. Sir John, who died in November, 1937, was the twelfth and last of the baronets of Brabourne, the first of whom was the younger brother of Sir Roger Twysden, the antiquary, who was grandson of the Roger Twysden mentioned above. (Perhaps to distinguish between the two lines a different spelling came to be adopted for the Brabourne branch.) Roger Twysden, whose wife was a daughter of Sir Thomas Wyatt, died in 1603, and was succeeded by his son, William, a soldier, courtier and scholar, who was one of the original baronets created by James I. His son, Sir Roger, the historian and antiquary, was the most distinguished member of the family, a man ahead of his time in his love of moderation and tolerance—qualities that were not a recommendation in the age in which he lived. Like others of his stamp, he was not without sympathy with the Parliament in the early stages of the struggle—he was one of those who had refused to pay ship money—but as the extremists gained control of the



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9.—A CORNER OF THE SALOON, ORIGINALLY THE HALL

situation his loyalty to the King asserted itself. In the spring of 1642 he was arrested by order of Parliament as one of those associated with the Petition of Kent. The document, which, it is thought, was actually drafted by him, seems eminently moderate and reasonable to-day. In the following year he made an attempt to leave the country, but was recognised at Bromley and again arrested, and for the best part of the next three years was held a prisoner. In the end he was released, but his estate had been sequestrated and a large part of his woods felled, and it was not until 1650 that his composition in a sum of £1,340 was accepted. During his imprisonment he was able to pursue his historical studies, which resulted in the publication of several treatises, and he left behind a mass of manuscript materials. The diary which he kept during the period (published in *Archæologia Cantiana*) is one of the most interesting records of the Civil War, and leaves one with an intimate understanding of the writer's character. In 1650 he retired to Roydon, and henceforth lived the quiet life of a country gentleman, devoting himself to remedying the damage which the sequestrators had done to his estate.

John Philipot, the historian of Kent, who pays tribute to Sir Roger as "both a gentleman and a scholar" in an age when literature was damped "by publick blastings and discouragements," records how much he did for Roydon, which, before the Civil War broke out, he had enclosed with a park, "the one the house is surrounded by at present." But he also adds that "the House owes much of its magnificence and splendour to the care and expense" of Sir Roger's father and grandfather. That being so, it is not possible to attribute definitely the work of a Jacobean character that has survived. The shields in the stone frontispiece of the porch (Fig. 2), which might have afforded a clue, have been worn away by the weather, and the fine panelling of the parlour in the east range (Fig. 11) could be of any date between about 1580 and 1640, but as the Roydon motto, "COME IE TROWE," appears in the frieze, it is perhaps due to the first Roger Twysden. The stone fireplace is one of three in the house displaying in the frieze Renaissance carving of high technical accomplishment; the others are in the porch room and the walnut room (Fig. 12). The hall (now the saloon)



10.—PANELS OF FIGURED WALNUT. Circa 1690

interesting survival of this period is the finely figured walnut panelling in the room adjoining the parlour at the north-east corner of the house (Fig. 10). The arrangement of the panels almost anticipates contemporary treatment of walnut veneers.

In the eighteenth century the fortunes of Roydon declined. The story is a melancholy one of mounting debts and mortgages, ending in 1834, on the death of the seventh baronet, with the sale of the house and what remained of the estate. William Cook, who sprang from a Norfolk family and founded the city firm of Cook and Martin, bought the property, which is now owned by his grandson. If the alterations of 1870, effected at an unfortunate time, have spoilt the exterior, they have made the house comfortable and pleasant to live in, which it can hardly have been before. In a winter such as this, for instance, the present staircase hall, which used to be a small internal courtyard, would have been deep in snow. But Victorian brickwork has not been able to spoil the beauty of Roydon's gardens, or its setting, which is one of the loveliest in Kent. It remains to acknowledge the writer's indebtedness to Mr. A. R. Cook's delightful book on Roydon, "A Manor Through Four Centuries."

ARTHUR OSWALD.



Copyright

11.—JACOBEOAN PANELLING IN THE PARLOUR



12.—THE WALNUT ROOM

"Country Life"



# BOOKS AND AUTHORS

NORFOLK AND SOMERSET WYNDHAMS, BY A. L. ROWSE

**F**AMILY history, like local history, is a very delightful branch of our agreeable science; and it is one of the more pleasant features of the uncomfortable times in which we live that family history has come into fashion again of late years. There are the admirable works of Professor Turberville and Miss Scott Thomson, which we owe to the great good sense of the Dukes of Portland and Bedford in calling in these trained historians to deal with their archives. Other noble families might with advantage follow their example. In the Hon. Hugh Wyndham, the Wyndhams have produced their proper historian, and a very accurate, well equipped and satisfying historian he proves to be.

I am all in favour of both family and local history. After all, the family is the real unit—or perhaps one should say strand—in the story of a people; and it is fascinating to observe its activities in its proper background, the immediate locality, Norfolk or Somerset or wherever it may be. Besides, it so illuminates the general story to see it played out in concrete upon the particular, the familiar scene: in this case, Felbrigg in Norfolk, Orchard Wyndham, Kentsford, Trent in Somerset. It is the great, perhaps the chief, merit of this book that it sees the story of the Wyndham family against the background of what was happening in national affairs, and again that it shows those affairs reflected in particular incidents happening to the family.

Mr. Wyndham is fortunate in being able to begin his story with a quarrel with the Pastons: those wonderful letters draw up the curtain for a moment upon the passions of real life so many centuries ago, the fray in the Norwich street outside St. Mary Coslaney between John Wyndham and his enemy, Agnes and Margaret Paston hearing the noise of the scuffle at the very moment of the "levation of the sacring." How true that rings out to us across the ages! Or there is the marriage of John's son to a Howard, and the way, traced in detail here, in which that powerful connection raised the fortunes of the Wyndhams in the last years of the Yorkists, depressed them after Henry VII's victory at Bosworth—the ambitious Sir John lost his head upon Tower Hill in 1502—and then carried them upwards again, though not to such dangerous heights, under Henry VIII. Or again, the opposition that ship-money raised up in the country against Charles I may be illustrated from the "inexpressible difficulty" that Thomas Wyndham, Sheriff for that year, had in collecting it in Norfolk in 1639-40.

The early history of the family is connected, as everybody knows, with Felbrigg, that exquisite Norfolk house. Then the sea comes in: a second son marries in Somerset, sees service in a west country ship the *New Bark* in Henry VIII's war against Scotland, goes a-privateering, brings home prize cargoes of Gascon wine to Bristol, makes a voyage to Morocco, and then another to the Gold Coast, thus early in 1553, upon which he died. (The magnificent portrait by Hans Ewerts of this seafaring, with his morion, his vice-admiral's sash and whistle, forms the frontispiece to the book.) In the next century, the family history is much more, indeed almost wholly, concerned with Somerset. There were not only Wyndhams at Orchard—where the church, St. Decuman's, became a shrine of fine memorials to them—but also at Kentsford and Trent. It is with this last branch that the most exciting Stuart memories are connected: Edmund who ruined his fortunes fighting for the King, his wife Christabella, very beautiful and strong-willed, who was Lady Governess to Henrietta Maria's children; and last of all, the high light of the book, the story of Charles II's stay in hiding with the family after the battle of Worcester until his escape to France.

We could have done with a few more such high lights, it must be admitted, though one may be questioned: surely that gruesome story of the lady who was brought back to life by the sexton cutting a finger to get a ring off, is one not infrequently told of old families? At least, there are two Cornish families of whom I have heard it told.

A FAMILY HISTORY, 1410-1688: THE WYNDHAMS OF NORFOLK AND SOMERSET, by the Hon. H. A. Wyndham. (Oxford University Press, 16s.)

## SPORTING LIFE

I must confess that I start off with a strong prejudice in favour of Mr. T. P. Beaven and his *SPORTSMAN'S FIRESIDE MEMORIES* (Heath Cranton, 7s. 6d.), for he thinks that Wiltshire is the best county in the world, and so do I. He has even broken into lively verse in Wiltshire's praise, which is more than I have aspired to. With that point in common, we got on very well. The memoirs range inconspicuously over a long period of time, through many changes—not all of which please the author, and over a good variety of country besides Wiltshire. Sport in Yorkshire and Scotland, hunting, fishing, shooting, political fêtes, travel, are all grist to his mill, all seen from a pleasantly intimate angle, reflected in the ten adequate illustrations by Algernon Thompson. The author enjoyed his life, and so have I. His book is a pleasant change from the "celebrity" type of memoir. His "personalities" and stories stand by themselves without the meretricious support of publicity, and are as refreshing as the wind across his Wiltshire downs.

Another "sporting life" of a refreshing kind is *RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ESSEX SPORTSMAN*, by Theodore Christy (Benham and Co., Limited, Colchester, 3s.). The author, who is a farmer, amateur steeplechase rider, and former Master of Stagbonds, has a lively pen

and a shrewd appreciation of sport and farming, and on occasions a pretty wit, as in his dedication of his book to his bankers. His memories also cover a wide field, and are full of good stories. C. E. G. H.

## LYING LEADER

There is no need for Mr. William Teeling in his book, *KNOW THY ENEMY* (Nicholson and Watson, 10s. 6d.), to draw upon his personal knowledge of Hitler or any of his satellites, and he does so very sparingly. In order that we shall know our enemy, we have only to read of any promise Hitler ever made, and then to turn a page of Mr. Teeling's book and find it broken. An "assurance" from Hitler to any nation is bad enough; a "solemn assurance" is fatal. Yet, reading extracts from these floods of Hitlerian words, we do see that millions of his fellow-countrymen must have been battered by his passionate verbosity into a belief that no lie could possibly be of that size, and that therefore they must be listening to the truth. We are grateful to Mr. Teeling for providing out of Hitler's own mouth this utterly damning evidence against him; particularly grateful for the sentence in which Hitler once fulminated against the Jews, for (changed from plural to singular) it is the ideal commentary on himself as revealed in these pages. "One did not know which was the more astounding: his glibness of tongue or his art of lying." V. H. F.

## WISDOM FOR HORSEMEN

The poet D'Annunzio wrote of Colonel Alessandro Alvisi, author of *HORSE AND MAN—APHORISMS AND PARADOXES*, illustrated (Country Life, 5s.), that he was a worthy champion of equitation and the rightful successor to Caprilli, who introduced the "natural" style of riding. This he held was a complete contrast to the old-fashioned riding-school style, which, so it is claimed, and rightly so, taught the rider to control and ride his horse by unnatural rather than natural laws. Indeed, the author compares the style of riding advocated by Xenophon in 400 B.C. in his famous treatise on horsemanship, with the theories of the Haute Ecole (A.D. 1540), and asserts that the natural style of the ancients was wilfully distorted and replaced by something artificial. Of this there can surely be but little doubt.

The choice of aphorisms and paradoxes made by Colonel Alvisi is admirable. His own beliefs, and very shrewd they are too, are leavened with the wisdom of the ancients, and so we have a collection of real value to the present-day horseman. A too generous meal of aphorisms and paradoxes is not easily digested, but how satisfying and instructive are a few taken at a time, the last thing from the bedside table. From so much wisdom where the greatest horse-sense? Perhaps "Like a woman the horse doesn't love or respect a weak character"—surely this is the very foundation-stone of horsemanship.

R. S. S.

## A POET IN WAR-TIME

Not every day does an author find a subject fitted to mind, heart and spirit as Miss Helen Ashton did when she wrote "William and Dorothy." It would be useless to pretend that *SWAN OF USK* (Collins, 9s.) repeats that triumph. It is not the author's fault. The facts about the Wordsworths were abundant; the facts about Henry Vaughan go much farther back and must always have been scanty. Miss Ashton is too conscientious to exceed a minimum of invention; so, for lack of any deep waters of private life, she is driven upon the rocks of public events. The shifting fortunes of King and Parliament in the Civil War are brought before our eyes; so is the wild, beautiful scenery of Wales. But Henry Vaughan himself—Welsh gentleman, Cavalier officer, country doctor and enduring poet—remains a dim figure, a gentle shadow even during the violent years of his military service, and after them withdrawn into those depths of reflection, those heights of mystical fulfilment out of which his poems were born. Miss Ashton has done what was possible, but Henry Vaughan remains what he was: a voice with a heavenly note, a spirit rather than a man. After all, is it not enough? V. H. F.

## MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIG TOP

Circuses have been so much to the fore in fiction of recent years that the title of Mrs. Manning-Sanders' new novel—*LUKE'S CIRCUS* (Collins, 8s. 6d.)—made one begin reading it with a certain amount of anxiety, not lessened by remembering the distinction of some of her earlier books as something not very well suited to this type of theme. Whether or no the reader finds this book an improvement upon her earlier work, *LUKE'S CIRCUS* begins extremely well with her hero as a small boy fired by the circus blood in his veins, caught after crawling in under the canvas intending to steal a sight of that glamorous world, as he had no money with which to buy one. His redoubtable great-aunt, who is still remembered among the circus people, gets him a free seat later in the day, and from that hour Luke's path in life lies clear before him. Everything for him thenceforward is subordinated to the need of some day owning a circus, and a great circus, of his own, and the reader is invited to watch his progress, his adventures, his successes and setbacks. The Great War nearly ends his dreams, accidents and catastrophes delay their fulfilment, but the book ends happily. It has the charm of displaying many vivid characters, of discussing a way of life very strange in the eyes of most of us "flatties"; above all it is, in the long run and in spite of its ups and downs, a success story. It can be highly recommended as a book that will carry the reader very far away from the perturbations of the present day, although it is too level in tempo to make the kind of reading that wrings the heart or uplifts the spirits.

## A SELECTION FOR THE LIBRARY LIST

ADMIRAL'S WIFE, by Brigadier-General Cecil Aspinall-Oglander (Longmans, 12s. 6d.); EDWARD WHYMPER, by Frank S. Smythe (Hodder and Stoughton, 21s.); VELVET VOYAGING, by Edward Wassermann (Bodley Head, 12s. 6d.); WALTZING MATILDA, by Arnold Haskell (Black, 12s. 6d.); THE LOST REPUBLIC, by Gustav Baumann and Elfrida Bright (Faber, 12s. 6d.); HUSKY, by Frank and Kenneth Cenibear (Davies, 8s. 6d.). Fiction: KITTY FOYLE, by Christopher Morley (Faber, 8s. 3d.); KAI LUNG BENEATH THE MULBERRY TREE, by Ernest Bramah (Richards Press, 8s.); MY OWN MURDERER, by Richard Hull (Collins, 7s. 6d.).

## FINLAND'S CHURCHES

OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS OF INTEREST THREATENED WITH DESTRUCTION

**A**FTER twenty years the damaged cathedrals of northern France have been built up again; Soissons, Arras, Noyon, stand much as they were before the bombardments, but lifeless, spiritless, like a blind man, their treasures gone. Now the same senseless, but more deliberate, destruction is overtaking Finland, and the loss is even greater, because whereas France is rich in magnificent ancient buildings, Finland, being a country of forests, naturally does much of her building in wood, the life of which is limited. But Finland has some fine old castles of stone, and for churches, symbols of eternity, the need for a more durable material was felt, so that most of her mediæval churches were made of granite and gneiss, usually on a rectangular ground plan with a high steeple gable, their beauty being in their simplicity and the severity of their design.

Only in Turku, which has suffered so much in recent air raids, did the Gothic style manifest itself in an important way. Turku Cathedral is perhaps the finest mediæval church in the whole of northern Europe. Called after Finland's patron saint, St. Henrik, its mellow red brick structure has dominated the city from all points for nearly seven hundred years. Inside it is rich in treasures, funerary monuments, frescoes, glass, wood statues; and there is among other things a sarcophagus adorned with a rose and thistle containing the mortal remains of the Scottish General Cockburn.

From the time of its origin in the thirteenth century Turku has been frequently ravaged, by war, famine, pestilence and fire. Peter the Great is said to have stolen its bricks for St. Petersburg and to have demolished its wooden houses to make ships in which to transport them. Built at the mouth and on both banks of the river Aurajoki, the town possesses a huge twelfth-century castle, once the key to Finland. Under Swedish rulers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the castle was the scene of magnificent receptions and was for a time the home of Gustavus Adolphus. To-day seventy-six rooms are filled with interesting museum pieces, and at the top of a vast number of stairs is a beautiful little church full of delightful wood carvings and with many ships suspended from the roof.

Porvoo, on which 250 bombs fell in a quarter of an hour on February 13th, has a fine little (unofficial) cathedral with a high, pointed mediæval roof, an ornamented gable and a separate bell-tower, reached through narrow, cobbled sloping streets.



THE LOVELY ISLAND MONASTERY OF VALAMO IN LAKE LADOGA  
There are seven churches on the island

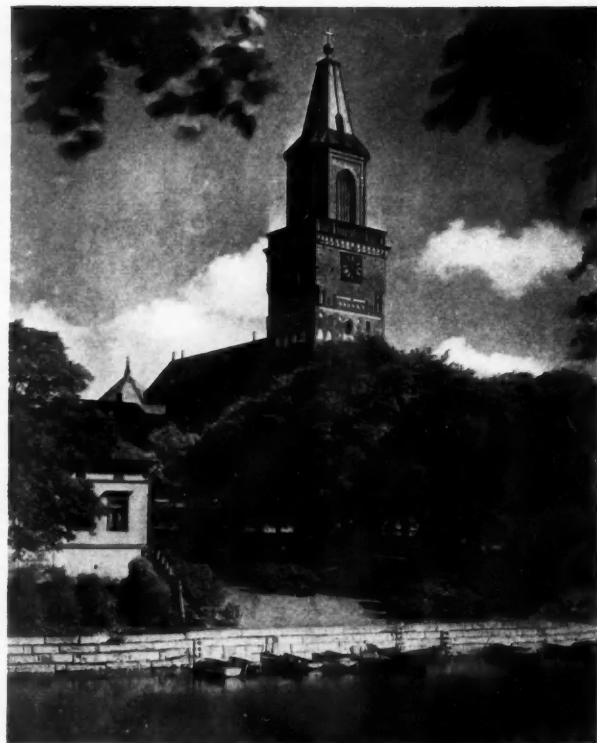
Built like a barn, of irregularly shaped granite blocks, it is typical of Finnish churches of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Here the Finnish Diet was obliged to take the oath of allegiance to Alexander I of Russia after the conquest of Finland in 1809.

Finnish people are quietly religious, the Lutheran faith being dominant and accounting for over nine-tenths of the population, but in religion, as in other things, they are truly broad-minded. Members of the Greek Orthodox Church form only less than 2 per cent. of the population. In the outdoor museum of Helsinki you can see an example of the long church boats in which congregations from outlying parts row across the lakes to church on Sundays, and the "church stables," little buildings where families could leave their horses during the ceremony and take a meal in the room above afterwards before starting on the journey back. Near Närpio in East Bothnia nearly two hundred of these "church stables" stand near the church. In outlying parts, and in islands of the archipelago, clergy give services in the schools or in the peasants' houses or, in summer-time, in the open air. Finland's religious temperament is only one of the many reasons why the Soviet régime is repugnant to the Finnish people.

At least three of Helsinki's churches are landmarks in the city. In the great Senate Square rises the beautiful Nicolai Church, the Lutheran cathedral built between 1830 and 1852 on a rocky eminence concealed by a mighty flight of forty-five granite



CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION AT VALAMO  
Built between 1887 and 1896 above the older church



THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY CATHEDRAL AT  
TURKU ON THE WEST COAST OF FINLAND



steps which lead up to the classic porticoes on whose pediments stand the twelve apostles. It is designed on the plan of a Greek cross, and its central dome, like its four satellites, is topped with a golden cross. Simplicity and a dazzling whiteness make the interior very beautiful; the only decorations are several white marble statues, including one of Martin Luther, and a painting of the Entombment behind the plain altarpiece which is the work of the Russian artist, Neff. Not far away, in full view of the harbour, is the Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church of the Assumption, built by the Russians in 1868 and inspired probably by the Alexander II Memorial Church in St. Petersburg, a massive Byzantine brick structure with golden cupolas and shining roofs, its gorgeous interior in striking contrast with the purity of the Nicolai Church. The third landmark is the famous Kallio Church, adroitly placed at the summit of a straight road which stretches for perhaps two miles from the centre of the city. Designed by Lars Sonck, it was built in 1913, of rough granite blocks, and has a tower from which there is a fine view over Helsinki. Sibelius wrote a work called "Carillon" in honour of this church.

There is no hide-bound conservatism about the Finnish people, and they have no hesitation in experimenting with new forms. The Mikael Agricola Church, completed a few years ago, is one of the many buildings which fully justify them; its good proportions, its plain square tower from which a slender spire rises towards the sky, make a restful and attractive composition. Agricola, to whom it is dedicated, helped to spread the ideas of the Reformation, and he it was who published the first three works in the Finnish tongue, an A B C, a Catechism and Prayer Book in 1544, and in 1548 the Finnish New Testament. St. John's Church, Helsinki, is in the Gothic style; it was built by the Swedish architect, Menander, in 1893, and won an international competition.

In considering what Finland has to lose one trembles to think what may, or perhaps has been, the fate of the Valamo Monastery, situated on that lovely group of forty islands lying towards the northern end of Lake Ladoga, the inland sea round which the Soviet armies must break to attack. These islands lie about thirty miles from the Finnish town of Sortavala, and on the largest, which is about seven miles by five, is the main part of a Greek Orthodox monastery, preserved after the Russian Revolution only because of the



THE NICOLAI CHURCH, THE LUTHERAN CATHEDRAL OF HELSINKI, BUILT BETWEEN 1830 AND 1852

fortunate accident of its position. Since its foundation a thousand years ago by two hermit monks many storms have broken over Valamo, but it has survived, and it may weather out this storm too. Restored in 1718 by Peter the Great, it rose to great prosperity in the middle of last century, when thousands of pilgrims visited it every year and its monks numbered two thousand instead of the present two hundred or so.

To step on to the Valamo boat with its silver cross, manned by a monk of the order with flowing locks, black robes and high black hat, is to move towards another world, a world of the past, of beauty and strangeness, of rich colours, ethereal bells and magnificent song. And the illusion is not dispelled as the boat moves up the narrow fjord to a landing-stage filled with black-clad figures, with old women in amazing bright skirts and head-dresses, with little carts and gay droshkies, and here and there, incongruously, a grey-clad soldier of the Finnish army. An immense flight of steps leads up to the Sacred Gate, to the central monastery building, a double rectangle of white plastered brick, in the

inner quadrangle of which is the two-storeyed Church of the Transfiguration, a wonderful Byzantine structure in white ornamented with red, with sea green roofs and five cupolas of midnight and cerulean blue each tipped with a golden cross above a golden sphere. The newer church was built above the older in 1887-96, and both are gorgeous with silver and gold, jewels, incense, paintings and candle-light, and during most of the day and night with the music of the exquisite ancient chants of the Orthodox Church.

Other churches, as well as chapels and shrines, are scattered about the islands. Many hermits, some of whom are never visited, live on the islands, and in the cemetery the dead monks lie, together with a Swedish king, under mounds which are half a man's length and on which repose blocks of heart-shaped stone inscribed in Russian characters. Only Russian is spoken on the islands. An hour away by motor boat is the Holy Island, its chapel rich with wood carving and gold ornament, while above a wooded haven is New Jerusalem, a church so called because it contains in an inner sanctuary an exact replica of the tomb of Christ at Jerusalem. Near this church is the Valamo Orphanage, which trains boys for the priesthood and teaches them those useful crafts which would fit them to enter, should they wish, the entirely self-supporting community of the monks of Valamo.

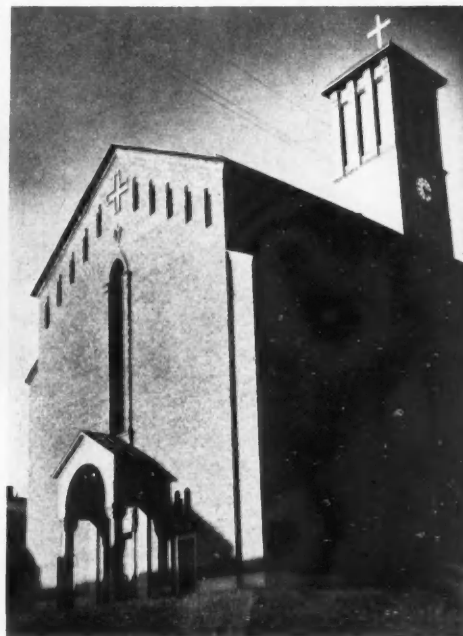
E. HARVEY.



(Above) THE KALLIO CHURCH, HELSINKI (1913), DESIGNED BY LARS SONCK



(Left) TYPICAL OF MODERN FINNISH ARCHITECTURE AT ITS BEST: THE MIKAEL AGRICOLA CHURCH



(Right) MODERN AUSTERITY AND FINE BRICKWORK: ANOTHER RECENTLY BUILT CHURCH IN HELSINKI

## SPRING SALMON FISHING

### COMPARISONS OF TWENTY YEARS

**H**ISTORY, we know, has a way of repeating itself, and there are many anglers who can remember another season's salmon fishing opening in very similar circumstances just a quarter of a century ago. Twenty-five years is a big slice in a man's life, but there are numerous people in the forties and early fifties who were actively engaged in the last war, and who are, or will be in due course, entangled in the present conflagration, and so will miss yet another of the limited number of seasons which come in the lifetime of all of us.

Of those who can do so, it is obviously both the duty and the pleasure to fish as much as possible, for the importance of adding to the food supplies of the nation has been overwhelmingly stressed by those in authority. The Minister of Agriculture has coined a slogan, "Dig for Defence," and it is rather characteristic of the very subordinate place which the Fisheries side of his charge seems to occupy in the official mind that nothing has been said about the importance of fishing.

At a time when supplies of sea fish have been drastically curtailed by enemy activities, and the requisitioning of trawlers and drifters for mine-sweeping and other purposes, it is obviously all the more important to make as much of our inland fisheries as possible.

Salmon is, of course, by far the most valuable of all our fresh-water fish—in fact, it is more important than all the rest put together. In this country the purely river species, pike, carp, eels and so on, have but little vogue as food, although on the Continent they are highly valued. Probably this is due to the fact that we, as an island people, have rich sea fishing grounds off all our coasts, and so we have not learned to appreciate the dishes which others find palatable, and which were, indeed, valued by our ancestors. Every monastery in days gone by had its river or fishponds, and in the fourteenth century a pike cost more to buy than a fat capon.

Besides being the most valuable fish from a statistical point of view, the food value of salmon flesh is far higher than that of any other species, being four times more nutritive than cod, and thus salmon, which may appear expensive at three shillings a pound, is really no more costly than cod at ninepence.

Since the end of the last war there has been a revolution in the practice and methods of salmon fishing, and tackle of every description has been drastically lightened. Gone are the gargantuan seventeen and eighteen foot rods which our fathers thought were essential for spring fishing, and it is eloquent of the change which has taken place that the largest buyer of second-hand fishing tackle in this country advertises that he has no use for rods over fifteen feet in length, the size which previous generations used for summer fishing in low water.

At the same time, spring salmon fishing has changed less than fishing at any other time of the year. It is true that the late Mr. Arthur Wood, whose evolution of the greased line and semi-floating fly has done so much to make fly fishing more of a pleasure and less of a toil than it used to be on occasions in olden days, found that salmon would rise to a fly just below the surface even in February, so long as the air was warmer than the water. But it is generally accepted by anglers of experience that far more salmon will be met by fishing deep than by keeping the fly high in the water until the river temperature is at least forty-five degrees, and that the best results from the greased line and just-sunk fly will not be achieved until the water is fifty degrees or above, and the air still warmer.

In cold weather salmon seek the deeper pools and are lethargic because the water contains too much oxygen, and although an

excess of oxygen does not kill fish like a deficiency, it does seem to cause them discomfort and make them disinclined to move. There is, moreover, another reason why the fish prefer to lie in the deepest water in very early spring. Quite often the surface layers of the water are several degrees colder than those lower down.

There is not the slightest doubt that, except possibly in very shallow rivers like the Helmsdale, spinning is far more effective than fly fishing in the early part of the season. However deep a pool may be, it is possible to reach the bottom with a well leaded, natural bait or a heavy devon. Moreover, one can ensure that the bait is fishing properly when it comes over where the salmon are lying, whereas even a big 5/0 or 6/0 fly is difficult to sink far enough unless it is cast up-stream, and then, with a well drowned line, the angler has little or no control over its passage, very little idea of how it is travelling, or even where it is when it reaches the depths where one expects the quarry to be.

That always seems to me an unanswerable objection to the rule which obtains on those rivers, like the Tweed and Dart for example, which have a "Fly Only" rule for the beginning of the season. Such a law, presumably a relic of the days when it was believed that salmon spawned every year, was doubtless made to protect the kelt when it was the fashion to arm spinning baits with three or four large triangle hooks. Nowadays it serves no useful purpose whatever.

To begin with, the number of kelts in Tweed is probably not reduced by 5 per cent. between the opening day, February 1st, and the 15th, when spinning is allowed. Second, we know that in very few rivers indeed do even 10 per cent. of the spawners ever return to fresh water again, and so an odd one which is too badly hooked to be returned has absolutely no effect on the stock. Third, hardly anyone now uses more than two moderate-sized treble hooks on their spinning baits, and with artificial devons the most usual mounting is one triangle, and so in the vast majority of cases a kelt hooked on spinning tackle is just as easily released as one which has taken a fly.

It is easy to see what a handicap such a rule is to anglers by examining the Tweed catches. Invariably there is a steep upward jump after February 15th, and one never hears of the fifteen-twenty-five or more fish in a day catches in the first fortnight which become quite common in a good spring as soon as spinning is allowed. As no amount of fair rod fishing ever hurt a river, there seems to be no point at all in this survival of the dark ages, and in war-time, at any rate, when the primary object is to catch as many salmon as possible, the rule might well be held in abeyance.

But however one is fishing, there are, I think, few more wonderful feelings than to stand on the bank of some well known, well loved river, where every pool and run has its memories of victories and defeats, on the opening day of a new season with the knowledge that ahead lies an entrancing vista of months in which one may angle as one lists.

Often anticipation is so much better than realisation, but on that day there is no room for doubts or pessimism. There will be no shortage of salmon; the weather will be kind and send us floods just when we want them, and, indeed, everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

That feeling, alas! must be absent this year, for even those who are left at home and free to fish can never really get away from the dread spectre whose ghastly wings cast a shadow over all the land. Our times have not been lucky. Two major wars is more than any generation should be called upon to face—and pay for. And so one must be all the more thankful if a day's fishing enables us to forget for a few fleeting hours the doubts and uncertainties of the future.

WEST COUNTRY.



SPRING ON THE TAMAR



# GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

## HINTS AND HISTORY

**W**HAT with the war and what with the weather (I mean, of course, the "recent" weather, for the present must never be mentioned), there has been so little golf that the day on which I have to write about it takes on a particular character of its own. I "prowl and prowl around" my golfing bookshelves, deliberately prolonging the fun and wondering which books to take down in the hope of a topic or a quotation; and if the day is a beast of a day, on which I can with a clear conscience retain my bedroom slippers and rest them on the fender, it is far from being the less enjoyable on that account. Sometimes I pick my book almost at random, but now and again Fate points its finger at a special one, and so it was the other day. A correspondent wrote that he had a dim recollection of a little book (author uncertain) in which the golfer was warned against standing over an enemy in a bunker and counting his strokes in it aloud. Could I help him? Yes, for once I could and with promptitude. The little book was "Hints on Golf," by Horace Hutchinson, published in 1886, and the particular hint was so pleasant that I quote it *in extenso*: "If your adversary is badly bunkered, there is no rule against your standing over him and counting his strokes aloud, with increasing gusto as their number mounts up; but it will be a wise precaution to arm yourself with the niblick before doing so, so as to meet him on equal terms."

Having got that little book down from the shelf I re-read it right through—it has but sixty-nine little pages—and "with increasing gusto." As it is now rather rare, I fancy that many readers do not know it, and I may quote accordingly. It was rare in another sense when it was published, since the author said elsewhere that there were at the time only three small didactic treatises in existence. There were actually four, but he had forgotten or did not know "The Golfer's Manual" of 1857. It was, in fact, only the spreading of the game in England that made of such literature a felt want. The Scottish golfer had, I fancy, a fine contempt for it. Another correspondent told me the other day how he used to play with an old dominie in the East Lothian, a good sound golfer, and how the old gentleman would pour derision on the English passion for theory by exclaiming after a topped tee shot: "Losh me! If I didna forget Rule 17 for driving." In the 'eighties, when I was myself commencing golfer as a small boy, the game was first "booming" in England and the book deservedly and rapidly went through several editions. Horace was himself dancing with a young lady in London, who said to him eagerly: "Yes, we all play, and we learn out of a most idiotic little book we've got . . . with single line figures illustrating it. Do you know it?" The elementary instruction and those single line skeleton or demon golfers with much-bent elbows (the right elbow high in the air) may "date" a little now, but the more general and ethical "Hints to golfers of riper years" are still fresh and amusing. As one who tries to write about golf I sometimes feel a pang of unworthy jealousy of those who had the first innings and could say some of these things for the first time.

Here, for example, is an agreeable piece of advice that will never grow too old: "Try to remember that a person may be a most indifferent golfer, and yet be a good Christian gentleman, and in some respects worthy your esteem." That now comes home to me in a painful and salutary manner, when I remember how often I have poured out scorn and hatred on those confounded people in front—yes, even when one was a bishop—who missed the ball so repeatedly and so slowly. I may not yet miss the ball quite so often, but I must needs go so slowly between the strokes that anyone behind will be perfectly entitled to deny that I am either a Christian or a gentleman. And, *à propos*, here is another hint, given with that gentle cynicism which Horace so pleasantly affected: "In most cases it is the loser who is so voluble in his complaints of the unconscionable time his match has been kept back by parties in front. The winner is likely to regard these little annoyances with far more resignation." That is profoundly true, and so is the succeeding hint that "if you hear a man complaining of 'having lost all interest' in a match which he has lately played, you will be pretty safe in inferring that he lost it." Just one more I will allow myself, because I feel so conscious of having at times deserved the lash: "When you hear a golfer enlarging upon the cruel ill-treatment which his ball suffered after 'one of the finest shots that ever was played' you need not hastily conclude that the stroke was one of any really very transcendent merit. This is generally a mere golfing *façon de parler*, and should be

taken to imply no more than that the stroke in question was not a noticeably bad one."

There is one passage in the book which will peculiarly appeal to more serious students of the future, engaged on research into the history of the long-dead golfer's armoury. This is the first of the situations set down as the miseries of golf: "Discovering, as you walk down to the tee to start a foursome, that your partner has never in his life played a round with a putty ball, while you yourself know that you cannot play within one half of your game with a gutty." This reference to a now-forgotten controversy may puzzle that earnest student, who will probably never have heard of the "Eclipse" ball, surnamed "putty." My recollection of it was that it was a superficially unattractive ball, making but a sulky sound off the club and preferring to keep near the ground rather than to soar into the air. I still remember buying one in a photographer's shop at Eton, when I was presumably destitute alike in point of balls and money, and thinking that some dreadful curse had fallen on my game. Yet, Horace had in this book given his verdict strongly and unhesitatingly in the putty's favour. He held that once you got used to its silence you were positively put off by the cheerful click of the gutty; that it was far the cheaper ball, since it stood up so well to topping with an iron; that it kept its shape better for putting; that it made up in run what it lost in carry; that, most important of all, "its flight was less affected by wind, by heeling, or by pulling." These were undoubtedly valuable qualities, and yet the "Eclipse" expired. Perhaps it ceased to be so well made, or perhaps the gutty was made better. At any rate, the controversy was in its time a lively one—Horace called it "an intolerable nuisance in foursome play"—and, however remote it may now seem, it deserves its little place in golfing history.

## RACING CARRIES ON

### A PRELIMINARY FIXTURE LIST

**I**T is easy to criticise, but in view of the difficulties involved—the problems of transport, for instance, and the fact that several well known racecourses are either not suitable or not available for racing—the preliminary list of flat-racing fixtures covering a period of ten weeks, which the Jockey Club have issued after consultation with the Government, must be considered a satisfactory one. Moreover, since its publication definite arrangements have been made about the running of the Two Thousand Guineas, the One Thousand Guineas, the Derby and the Oaks. Still hoping, like everyone else, that the two "Guineas" will be run for over the Rowley Mile on the Old Course, the Stewards have, nevertheless, taken no risks, and as an alternative have inaugurated two new "Guineas," with a new entry closing on February 27th, which, in the event of the Rowley Mile being unavailable, will be run for on the Wednesday and the Friday (May 1st and 3rd) of the First Spring Meeting over the Bunbury Mile on the July Course. If, however, a return to the proper order of things is possible, these arrangements will become void in favour of the original races for which entries closed in the November of 1938. This is in every way a satisfactory plan. So, too, since Epsom is ruled out, is the choice of Newbury, if available, for the Derby and the Oaks to be run for on June 12th and 13th. This decision will be universally applauded. Should anything unforeseen occur at Newbury, the races will be held at Newmarket. Many places, including Lewes, Brighton, Derby and Birmingham, were suggested, but all, apart from Newmarket, had disadvantages. Lewes and Brighton presented very real transport difficulties, and good courses though they are, it is hard to associate "The Blue Ribbon of the Turf" either with Derby or with Birmingham and its racecourse at Bromford Bridge.

Newbury is a very different proposition. It is situated in the very centre of the Lambourn training district, and within easy reach of such stables as those at Wantage, the Ilsleys, Manton, Winchester, Stockbridge and Beckhampton; is but an hour's train journey from London and about four hours by road from Newmarket; consists of a straight mile course and a circular left-hand course of two miles in circumference, over which every detail of the running can be seen from the capacious stands, and, furthermore, it has traditions behind it. The last consideration may seem beside the point at the present time, but what more fitting venue could be chosen in these times of stress than the one founded, as Newbury was, by the late John Porter of Kingsclere, the trainer of the Derby winners, Blue Gown, Shotover, St. Blaise, Ormonde, Sainfoin, Common and Flying Fox, and of the Oaks winners, Geheimniss, La Flèche and La Roche?

To go into some further details of the fixture list: flat-

racing opens on Easter Monday, March 25th, with one day fixtures at Hurst Park and Birmingham, and these are followed on the Saturday—leaving the intervening days free for National Hunt racing—by meetings at Catterick Bridge and Alexandra Park. The week commencing April 1st features the Lincoln meeting, which is reduced to two days (Tuesday and Wednesday), and Liverpool, which has been allotted its full complement; then Nottingham follows on Monday and Tuesday, April 8th and 9th, and after an interval, which will be welcomed by jumping enthusiasts who have suffered such a lean time this season, there will be a two-days' meeting at Newbury on the Friday and the Saturday, including, as usual, the Greenham Plate on the first day and the Newbury Spring Cup on the second. On the Saturday a single day follows at Doncaster. This inclusion of the "toffee town," even if only for a day, raises hopes that, should all go well, there will be the usual Doncaster September Meeting with the St. Leger on its proper course, and the concomitant Yearling Sales. The importance of these auctions and of the others at Newmarket and Ball's Bridge cannot be over-estimated. The fixture list is satisfactory in that it shows a desire for a continuance of racing, but for racing to go on without deterioration in the racehorse, there must be a continuance of breeding, and to ensure this there must be periodical auctions in order to allow breeders, as apart from the select few who breed to race, an outlet for their stock and some sort of turnover for their invested capital. Breeders, as breeders, are having a worse time at the moment than

the more active participants in the sport, and their troubles, though rarely mentioned, deserve at least equal consideration.

Following Doncaster, there is a Monday meeting at Edinburgh on April 15th, and then racing opens at Newmarket for the Craven Meeting for which two days, in place of the usual three, have been allowed. These are the Wednesday and Thursday, and on the Saturday there are one-day fixtures at Haydock Park and at Alexandra Park, to be followed by a couple of days (Monday and Tuesday) at Leicester, and Saturday meetings at Hurst Park and Stockton. The last day of April and the first three in May are booked for the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, with the Two Thousand Guineas and the One Thousand Guineas as features, and the week-ends with two days up north at Thirsk and a single one at Windsor, a venue that has not been too liberally treated. During the fortnight following there will be double days at Lewes and Hurst Park on the Mondays and Tuesdays, and at Newbury and Manchester on the Fridays and Saturdays, with single days booked for Ripon and for Wolverhampton, and then, after a week-end (Saturday and Monday) at Lanark, the Newmarket Second Spring Meeting will occupy Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 21st, 22nd and 23rd, to the accompaniment of bloodstock sales. The month ends up with two days at Haydock Park and four days devoted to Bath and Salisbury, which latter suggest an enjoyable week in the west of England. At the moment the list is tentative, and it is to be hoped that it will be followed by further information in the near future. ROYSTON.

## FARMING NOTES

### NIGHT PLOUGHING—CALLING UP OF FARM WORKERS—MILK PRICES FALSE ALARM—HAY AND STRAW

THE hard weather which set in after Christmas seriously held up the progress of the ploughing campaign. There are many thousands of acres which would by now have been ploughed and cultivated if the land had been in workable condition during January. All of us have big arrears to make good, if not on our own farms on the farms of our neighbours. During the coming weeks of spring no tractor must stand idle when it is good ploughing weather. If there is no work to do at home, it should be out on a neighbour's land. If there is any difficulty in agreeing to the contract price for such ploughing, the machinery officer of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee will be able to provide a standard form of contract. While, taking the country as a whole, winter ploughing has got very much behind, there are districts where the work is fairly well in hand. In Northumberland and some other northern counties the winter was fairly open until the New Year, and a good many grassfields were ploughed. They have now had the benefit of the recent frosts. The same is true of some of the western counties. According to reports from Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, these counties are fairly well ahead with their programme of ploughing. But the majority of counties still have a great deal to do. Those who are country dwellers but who are not farmers may have their nights' rest disturbed by tractors working through the hours of darkness. New regulations have been approved which allow head lamps on tractors provided that they are screened. A neighbour who was working with a screened head lamp and a screened rear lamp to illuminate the plough tells me that he got on quite well last week and that when the daylight came he found that the furrows were tolerably straight. It is inevitable that some of the work done this spring will not be quite so finished as usual, but if the turf is turned in and the furrow well consolidated, a good crop of oats will soon obliterate any signs of hurried husbandry.

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More than once lately it has been suggested that, as we have an extraordinary rush of spring work ahead of us, the calling up of any further young farm workers should be postponed for a month or two. Another batch of twenty year olds, those who reached their twentieth birthday between December 2nd and 31st, were due to register for military service on February 17th. Their calling-up notices can be postponed where that is necessary on agricultural grounds. Any farmer who employs a twenty-year-old who was required to register on February 17th should make application straight away to the County War Agricultural Executive Committee, so that his calling up can be postponed. There will not be many men in this group. Farm workers generally are reserved from the age of twenty-one, and when those who are twenty-one and over are called upon to register they merely state that they are farm workers and they are automatically exempted from being called up for military service. These arrangements may seem complicated, and many farmers have urged that agriculture should be a completely reserved occupation. In point of fact, a certain number of these young men prefer to join up when their time comes at the age of twenty, and of course if a young fellow wants to join up there is nothing to prevent him from leaving a reserved occupation and so making himself liable for military service.

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The Ministry of Food has been blundering again. A fortnight ago the Ministry decided to fix maximum retail prices for

milk. A price schedule was issued giving maximum prices for different areas according to population. A higher price was allowed in the big towns than in the rural districts, and a higher price also for tuberculin-tested milk. On the face of it, this seemed a nice tidy arrangement, but as usual the Ministry of Food had not consulted anyone engaged in the production of retailing of milk. The department had overlooked the fact that there are many differential retail prices, not only according to the population of a district, but according also to the quality of the milk. There are producers with Jersey herds who have for some time past obtained a special premium because their milk is richer than ordinary milk. There are also districts in the home counties where the population may be comparatively small, but where retail prices have always followed the London level. A storm of complaints was directed at the Ministry of Food, and within a few days the Order was made fixing the maximum retail prices of all grades of liquid milk at the prices at which such milk was sold in any district in the seven days ended December 31st, 1939. This in fact is "as you were."

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There is a good trade for hay and straw at the present time. The best mixture hay and the best meadow hay are fetching prices which are attractive to those who have some surplus for sale. Last week I was able to sell two ricks of mixture hay at £6 a ton. This was in the rick, and the merchant is to cut out the hay and bale it. Two months ago the price offered for this hay was £4 10s. a ton, and at that time it would have seemed a reasonable price to a willing seller. The extra demand which has sprung up lately is no doubt due to the hard weather and the shortage of concentrated feeding-stuffs for the dairy cows and other stock. Good hay is a great standby in milk production through the winter. Most of us who look ahead a little also foresee that less hay will be made this year and that any good hay now in rick will be well worth having for feeding next winter. With all this ploughing up going on it will certainly pay to give the hayfields a top dressing this spring, so as to get as heavy cuts as possible.

Straw is also fetching attractive prices just now. Before Christmas I sold some baled wheat straw at 42s. a ton. Now the price offered for baled barley straw is 52s. 6d. a ton. Generally, wheat straw is worth more than barley straw. It may be that there is a shortage all round because the Army is now buying more straw, or perhaps some new industrial use has been discovered for barley straw. In the ordinary way barley straw does not make good litter, and most farmers would prefer to use wheat straw. Oat straw is, of course, rather in a class by itself because of its higher feeding value. While hay prices are mounting, oat straw should also have an increased value. Looking at these higher prices for straw and cereals it is evident that the arable farmer who normally grows a considerable acreage of cereals has come out of 1939 better than most of us. The milk producer is limited in the price he can get for his produce. So is the pig-breeder, and so is the farmer who fattens cattle. The man with oats and barley to sell has enjoyed a free market. The shadow of control now lies over the oat trade. As soon as the seed oat trade is finished the maximum price for oats will be limited after this month to 36s. a quarter for grinding qualities and to 33s. a quarter for feeding grades. This marks a considerable come-down. By next harvest shall we see the price of barley pegged at 45s. or 50s. a quarter? CINCINNATUS.



# "FROZEN RAIN" AT BADMINTON

A PHOTOGRAPH BY  
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL

WE have been privileged to receive the photograph, here reproduced, which was taken by H.R.H. the Princess Royal after the phenomenal "frozen rain" at the end of last month. It was taken in the park at Badminton, the seat of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, and shows the effect of the freezing rain on blades of grass. The coating of ice on these blades, which stood about a foot high, was no less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in circumference and in some cases  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. thick. The poor visibility prevailing at the time all over the country made it difficult to secure photographic records which should do justice to the beauty of the remarkable effects witnessed in many districts. But this photograph, it will be acknowledged, has contrived to overcome this obstacle with unusual success.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### THE FROST AND AFTER

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—At the time of the extraordinary silver thaw recently a Post Office official cut a piece of telephone wire about 15 ins. long which was thickly coated with ice, and as a matter of interest he weighed it, and it turned the scale at 2 lb. 14 oz. No wonder that up here at St. Briavel's in Gloucestershire we were marooned, and not a telephone was working! We were without papers for three days, and the lorry for milk did not call for two days. Telegrams were delivered when the mail brought them, and had it not been for our wireless we might as well have been on a desert island.—F. A. H. ANDREWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Your readers may be interested to see this photograph taken at the end of the long January frost. The scene is on the River Wye at Aber Pool near Builth Wells, where it is joined by the Irfon. Meeting the force of the opposing current, great blocks of ice that had come down the river were piled up in a huge

pack against the bank. The photograph shows the great thickness of these stranded ice floes, which presented a picture very unusual in this country.—P. B. A.

### BIRDS DURING THE HARD WEATHER

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—The hard frosts brought out some unusual habits among the birds. On the muddy shore below Liverpool Docks at low tide, the noise of hundreds of song thrushes breaking the shells of winkles on the stones was astounding, and attracted attention before one noticed these birds among the usual haunts of redshank and dunlin. A heron was so hungry that it gladly ate bread which a friend had scattered for other birds. In a wooded clough in the hills above Blackburn I watched a bunch of robins feeding side by side on the top of a stone where a keeper had scattered some food. The traditional rivalry of these birds was lost completely, and in another instance in a friend's garden elsewhere, the "family" robin, which had always vigorously claimed its territorial rights in a corner of the garden, fed with two

other robins by its side daily during the hard spell—a scene previously unknown excepting on a Christmas card. Fieldfares for the first time came to our bird-tables in the industrial towns, and a friend saw a bunch of long-tailed tits in the main street of St. Helens in Lancashire. I picked up a number of dead dunlin along the shores, and they were mostly the northern or "alpine" race, hundreds of which seemed to have died in the hard spell. Thrushes, blackbirds, sparrows and moorhens were actually picked up helpless in the frost, and a member of the Merseyside Naturalists' Association showed me how he had taken them in a basket to the fireside to "thaw them out" before feeding them in his aviaries. At 6 a.m. one morning a warden picked up a moorhen lying helplessly cold on the road here. It was warmed and fed back to health, and has since followed my friend's pheasants and come to his call for food, with no desire to return to the freedom offered it. Immense numbers of mallard were off-shore, and swans and Canada geese from town parks took to the marine lakes and boating pools, and, when they froze, to the sea. Lapwings in thousands came down the Ribble and Mersey valleys from the inland fields. I often saw starlings and other birds eating the snow, which is probably a natural habit in such weather.—ERIC HARDY.

### A SLOWWORM SEEN IN JANUARY

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—On Sunday, January 28th, a bitterly cold day, with ice-covered roads, and white frost lying as thick as snow, I came across a slowworm lying on a road in the New Forest, and, moreover, still in a torpid condition, with some slight movement in its body. Meeting with it under such conditions, the sight to me was more uncanny than usual. The explanation no doubt is that it had been unearthed by some ravenous and desperate bird.—E. E. JOHNSON.

### LITTLE OWLS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—While driving from Alcester to Tysoe and back, on Sunday, February 11th, some friends and myself saw no fewer than seven little owls (*Athene noctua* *Vidali*). Four of these were seen in the morning, between eleven and twelve o'clock, and the other three on the return journey, between three and four o'clock. It is, of course, possible that one or two of those seen in the afternoon were the same as those seen in the morning. I have often noticed little owls sitting on trees or telegraph poles by the roadside before, but never in such numbers. I am wondering if it is a particularly common bird in this part of Warwickshire, or if the present extraordinary weather has anything to do with their behaviour.—M. G. PEAK.



PACK ICE ON THE RIVER WYE

### A CONFIDING PAIR OF BLACKBIRDS

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—The excellent and charming photographs that accompanied a recent article on starlings in COUNTRY LIFE prompt me to send you two studies of another common bird in the belief that they will be of interest to your readers. This pair of blackbirds have built a nest two years running now on a ledge of the whitewashed walls inside an old barn. The hen bird was an excellent mother and a very tight sitter, and even the cock bird was unusually bold. They reared a strapping brood of voracious youngsters each season, but they did not attempt a second venture on the same site either year. Blackbirds are often accounted awkward and nervous sitters by photographers, but these two birds were unusually confiding, and did not even take exception to the flashlights, by means of which these two photographs were secured. Perhaps the constant intrusion of men and cattle may have helped to harden their sensibilities.—R. ADCOCK.

### THE ROOK'S FUNERAL RITES

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Your very interesting article on Rooks in a recent issue of COUNTRY LIFE coincides with a rook incident on which an ornithologist might be able to throw some light. During the extreme weather of January a rook had visited my bird-table, and soon became so tame that it would wait to be fed by itself with suitable food, and each night roosted under the shelter of overhanging ivy clinging to the house. After some days I was distressed to find the bird dead, so placed it on the snow some distance from the house to await burial after the thaw. Now, although the nearest rookery is half a mile distant and to the best of my knowledge there was not a rook in sight when the body was moved, yet within a few minutes I observed from a dozen to twenty rooks circling round the corpse with raucous cries. They did not alight but, apparently having satisfied themselves that the funeral rites had been celebrated, dispersed *en masse* to the rookery. As I have never observed or read anything to compare with this in bird life, I venture to place the circumstances on record in the hope that some explanation may be forthcoming.—FRANCIS SHAW.

### AN UNIDENTIFIED MEDALLION

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I wonder whether any of your readers could give me some idea as to the date of the medallion, photographs of which I enclose. The size is about the same as a half-crown. It is silvery in appearance. The obverse side has the inscription "S. Georgius Equitum Patronus" round the edge; the centre is taken up with a picture, in relief, of St. George slaying a dragon. The reverse side has the inscription "Interpestare Securitas" and a picture of an ancient ship in a heavy storm. The medallion is worn nearly flat, and the pictures are rather hard to distinguish. It was found buried about eighteen inches below the surface in a trench that was being dug for new drainage pipes here, at Whitehaven, on the Cumberland coast; so, presumably, it must have been buried for many years. I can



A SAFEGUARD FOR SAILORS? THE MEDALLION FOUND AT WHITEHAVEN



FATHER AND MOTHER BLACKBIRD WITH THEIR FAMILY

understand St. George being the patron saint of knights, but I have never heard of him as a safeguard for sailors. It has been suggested to me that the medallion is pre-Reformation, and, as it was buried near a fishing village and the site of an old racecourse, it might have belonged to a fisherman who frequented the races, who, after a run of bad luck in picking winners, threw it away!—R. G. MALDEN, *St. James' Vicarage, Whitehaven.*

### A SPANIEL SAVES A RABBIT

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I send you a photograph of a spaniel belonging to my forester, Mr. Landers. One day his wife saw a stoat hunting a rabbit down



THE RABBIT'S FRIEND

the bank behind her house; the rabbit collapsed quite dazed into a little stream at the bottom of the bank. The dog, seeing this, chased the stoat away, though I don't know if he killed it. He then returned, picked the rabbit out of the little stream, lay down beside it, and licked it for about a quarter of an hour till it was dry, when the rabbit quietly hopped away. The dog frequently goes out rabbiting with the keepers.—POWIS.

### A LITTLE-USED APPLE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—In times when no one wishes to waste any good food, I feel it is the duty of anyone

who knows of something delicious to make it known to others. Few people realise that the little apple which ripens very late in the autumn on the low bushes of the *Pyrus Cydonia japonica* makes excellent jelly. It has a more delicate flavour than either crab apple jelly or quince. It is prepared for cooking in exactly the same way as quince. As nearly everyone has room, even in the smallest garden, for this very decorative shrub, which can be kept as small as the owner likes, but requires no other attention, it is worth while planting it now for the pleasure its flowers will give very early in the spring (and quite often in the autumn too), and also for the value of the contribution it offers to the food supply.—K. H. REES-MOGG.

### RABBITS AND STOATS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I do not know that I have read any altogether convincing statement of the precise nature of a stoat's strange power over a rabbit, inhibiting the latter's natural resources of escape by means of his superior fleetness of foot. There are familiar exceptions to this inhibition. As small bird with hawk, or zebra with lion, so a rabbit displays little sign of fear of full-fed stoat or fox. Under such conditions he may wrinkle his nose and be a little uneasy at the presence of a stoat on the other side of the hedge, but no more. His confidence may be due to some form of telepathic awareness of the stoat's condition when full-fed, but more probably to the absence of an effluvium secreted by the hunting stoat: just as anger or fear at an intruder's approach to her young ones causes the female stoat to secrete an effluvium almost as fetid as the skunk's. So, too, the doe rabbit's maternal instincts are dominant to the exclusion of other emotions, and she will leap backwards and forwards over a hunting stoat, slashing at him with her powerful hind feet. Her behaviour gives the clue to a rabbit's normal fear of a stoat: for the maternal state is predominantly one in which the parent loses for the time being the emotion of fear for itself. But the buck or barren doe, not having any immediate emotion dominant to one of fear, gradually succumbs to the latter when hunted by a stoat. This sets up a paralysis of the nervous system—a common fear-reaction among beasts and birds. The stoat-hunted rabbit reacts only gradually to this fear-paralysis, for, as he accelerates at his customary fifteen yards a second, there will be a greater or lesser interval (according to the nervous or organic resistance of the particular rabbits) before he slows up, tottering, blind, and paralysed in the hind-quarters—that weak nerve centre of almost every mammal.

One is faced, then, with the question of why the stoat especially, and not the fox, should induce this condition of paralysis. But does a fox never produce this condition? I have come suddenly on a rabbit, for it to begin to accelerate away at its normal speed; but after a few yards it was kicking with its back legs from side to side, to stagger and collapse, its hindquarters useless, and shortly die. The rabbit is especially prone to this type of paralysis. I would suggest that the stoat, as its hereditary killer-in-chief, gives a greater shock to the rabbit's nervous system than any other animal.—RICHARD PERRY.

### A CORRECTION

In a Country Note last week it was stated that pheasant shooting has been extended until the end of March. The extension is until the end of February.





# THE ESTATE MARKET

## SIDELIGHTS ON A LONDON SALE

**L**ADY FORTESCUE, with her husband, the late Colonel Sir John Fortescue, Archivist and Librarian to the King, and historian of the British Army, enjoyed for a long period The Admiral's House, Hampstead Heath, as their London home. Lady Fortescue has an interesting chapter about the sale of that property, in her new book "There's Rosemary There's Rue." She says (*inter alia*):

"I visited Hampton's" (Messrs. Hampton and Sons, whose offices at that time—1925—were in St. James's Square) "and had a long talk with our staunch friend, Captain Amery Underwood, who had first found, and then let, my 'Cintra' premises in Sackville Street for me, and had helped us with our housing problems and those of our friends so often in the past. . . . I was received in Hampton's offices as though I were the Queen, and Captain Underwood consoled me by his confident assurance that if we put Admiral's House with its romantic history on the market we should get a fancy price for it." (The house was offered by auction.) "It was a grave decision for us because the costs would be £100."

### "A LOOK OF GRAVE CONCERN"

"All through the anxious day of the sale . . . I was like a cat on hot bricks, so nervous and restless that I could settle to nothing. When I knew that the sale was over I hadn't the courage to telephone to Captain Underwood to ask the result. . . . I got into the car and drove down to St. James's Square. One look at Captain Underwood's face as I was shown into his office told me that the news was disastrous. He had no smile for me, only a look of grave concern. There had not been one bid for the house."

"I had never been able to share his roseate views of the possibility of Admiral's House fetching a fancy price, and I had felt horribly apprehensive of this very result all day. He was as disappointed and disgusted as if the house had been his own, and simply could not understand why it had not been immediately snapped up."

Messrs. Hampton and Sons eventually sold The Admiral's House, and the buyer used part of the garden as a site for two small houses. Later, the firm resold The Admiral's House to Lord Glenconner. The moral would seem to be that, having entrusted a property to an agent to sell, the best course for a vendor is to forget all about the matter until such time as, in one way or another, under the hammer or privately, a sale has been effected.

### A LINK WITH JANE AUSTEN

**MR. EDWARD KNIGHT** wishes to let Chawton House, near Alton, unfurnished, and his agents are Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff. The fine old Elizabethan house has a quantity of grand old panelling, and it has been well modernised. The mistake



CHAWTON HOUSE, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE

is sometimes made of supposing that Jane Austen lived at Chawton House. Actually she lived in "the kind of parsonage house" that her uncle, the heir of the Chawton estate, had granted to her mother. There is, in the British Museum, a batch of six letters, written by Jane Austen to her brother, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Francis Austen, G.C.B., which with other manuscripts were presented to the nation a few years ago by Captain E. L. Auster, R.N. Like a few of her other letters, three or four of them were in verse form. At the end of July, 1809, Jane, delighted with her first three weeks at Chawton, wrote: "Our Chawton home, how much we find Already in it to our mind; And how convinced that when complete It will all other houses beat That ever have been made or mended With rooms concise or rooms distended. You'll find us very snug next year!" The house was that in the village, and now converted into a club and dwellings. Jane Austen's family enjoyed the use of it, and in one letter Jane alludes to the very pleasant proximity of the old manor house, which "over-sighted" her village home. Chawton House was illustrated in *COUNTRY LIFE* (Vol. XIX, page 874). "Sense and Sensibility" and "Pride and Prejudice" were revised at Chawton, and there "Emma" and "Persuasion" were mainly written.

### FARMING AND SPORTING

**THE** Home Farm, 170 acres with a superior house, formerly part of Lord Downe's Dingley Hall estate, near Market Harborough, has been sold by Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff and Mr. J. Toller Eady. The former firm has for sale The Manor Farm, an Elizabethan

house, three sets of farm buildings and 447 acres at Little Harrowden, Wellingborough. Iron ore is found there. Allum Green House, with 20 acres, in the New Forest, at Lyndhurst, is offered by order of Mrs. Drury Lowe.

The game-bags of the Haveringland estate, near Norwich, were set out in *COUNTRY LIFE* of February 10th. The shooting is to be let by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The firm is now instructed to let the mansion as well, with the grounds of 26 acres, and of course also with the 4,270 acres of shooting, if desired. There is good fishing in the large lake on the estate. Haveringland was for many years the seat of Lord de Ramsey.

Other offers by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley include Cranesden, a house enlarged and modernised by Sir Reginald Blomfield, and 172 acres, at Mayfield, and the property will probably be brought under the hammer in April. A superb view of Torbay can be had from the top of the cliffs at Goodrington, and at that point is St. Ann's Hotel, Paignton, a freehold for sale owing to the death of the owner, who had carried on a good business. The equipment would be sold at the same time.

### DEVON SALE AND RE-SALE

**O**XENWAYS, 686 acres at Membury, near Axminster, a house of medium size on high ground with gardens and rhododendron plantations, a large area of woodland, and three farms, has been sold by clients of Messrs. W. Palmer and Co. and R. and C. Snell, Limited, to a client of Messrs. Fox and Sons, who are shortly to resell the estate in lots.

Among recent sales by Messrs. A. T. Underwood and Co. are Scallows Farm, Three Bridges; Rosemary, Chiddingfold; White Court, Crawley Down (with Messrs. P. J. May); Brandon House, Rowfant; St. Benedict's, Crawley; Ianscot, Horley; Brastagi, Horley (with Messrs. F. D. Ibbett, Mosely, Card and Co.); and four new houses in Worth Park. They have found tenants for a large number of unfurnished and furnished country houses.

### "THE MANOR OF HAM-MOHUN"

**H**AMMOON MANOR FARM-HOUSE and 600 acres, near Sturminster Newton, have been sold by Messrs. Hy. Duke and Son to a client of Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. The stone house with thatched roof has two rooms panelled from floor to ceiling, and the Jacobean staircase is a rare piece of that period's craftsmanship. Another notable point is the pillared Renaissance porch. In his antiquated history of Dorset, Hutchins traces the grants of the manor of Ham-Mohun, by William the Conqueror to William de Moion, one of his fighting men who landed at Hastings. Sir Frederick Treves, in his charming little book on Dorset, says that in his opinion "Hammoon Manor House is the most picturesque of its kind." ARBITER.



HAMMOON MANOR, DORSET



## THE MOTORIST CARRIES ON

**I**N spite of the high cost of motoring, with the 25s. per horse-power tax taking its toll of the war-time motorist, so many people still find their cars absolutely necessary to their businesses that I think the number of licences which have been retained, or which will be renewed again in the spring, will surprise the pessimists. At any rate, the export trade is booming, and the small car still sells well, as is evidenced by the fact that two of the largest firms have just introduced new war-time versions of their smallest models.

The Ford Company have come along with a new type of 8 h.p. which they have called the "Anglia." This follows directly in the footsteps of the series of eights which they have been building for some years, and which, representing the cheapest and most economical vehicles in their range, have been so deservedly popular.

The Anglia sells as a saloon for £126, while there is also a *de luxe* version at £10 more, and a sliding roof is £5 extra. It has the well known 8 h.p. engine, which has been still further modified in the light of experience. With side valves, it has a cubic capacity of 933 c.c., with an R.A.C. rating of 7.95 h.p., and under the new taxation £10 a year has to be paid. Various refinements and improvements have been worked into the new engine, particularly those which make it quieter and smoother. It is now suspended in the chassis at four points on live rubber, while main and cam shaft bearings are babbitt-lined and detachable for longer life and quick, economical replacement when necessary.

True to Ford policy, the crank shaft is of cast steel and is fully counterweighted, while it runs in three bearings. Ford type valves, which remain permanently in adjustment, are fitted as usual.

The Anglia saloon is a full-sized four-seater saloon, and has a separate luggage compartment at the rear. It is of the two-door type, and though the floor level has been kept low, there are no foot wells. The instruments are neatly arranged centrally in a plastic panel, and there is a very large full-width shelf running right under the instrument panel.



A LANCHESTER FOURTEEN SPORTS SALOON NEAR COOMBE ABBEY, NOT FAR FROM COVENTRY

The luggage compartment at the rear is accessible from the outside and is extremely roomy for this type of car. When specially bulky luggage is carried the door can be lowered to form a strong platform, and the number plate is hinged so that it is fully visible in any position. The spare wheel is carried below the hinged luggage compartment floor, and tools are also housed in the floor.

The Standard Company have also introduced a new war-time model, which is a four-door eight saloon. This new car costs £159 (*de luxe* model £169), and it is claimed that the petrol consumption is very low, 45-48 m.p.g. being easily attainable. The tax is, of course, no more than £10 per annum.

This new four-door eight has an all-steel body with ample room for four large people and generous luggage accommodation at the rear. These cars have a system of independent front-wheel suspension, rare in a car of this size, which makes for very comfortable riding. In spite of the low

height of the body, there are no foot-wells or running boards. This little car is ideally suited to war-time motoring, with its economical running, low taxation class, and excellent performance.

### TRICKLE-CHARGING THE BATTERY

**T**HE low mileages made necessary to many by the petrol rationing, combined with low speeds to ensure economy, have put enormous strains on batteries during the past winter. Very low temperatures also have a deleterious effect on the electrical equipment, and there must have been few people who could put as much into their batteries as they took out during a month's running.

For this reason a trickle-charger which can just be plugged in when the car is at rest in the garage, is an invaluable thing. The best known of these is the Westric, which only costs about £3 and which uses a unit of current from the mains in twenty-four hours. It can therefore be used continually in the garage while the car is at rest and left on all night, when it will keep any battery in a healthy charged condition, no matter how hard it has been used.

The trickle-charger takes current from the electric mains and transforms it from alternating to direct current, feeding in continuously about 1 ampere. When the car is driven into the garage at night the trickle-charger can just be coupled into the plug socket on the instrument panel and left to charge all night.

### ACROSS AFRICA BY CAR

**M**R. H. E. SYMONS must be recognised as the great expert in getting across Africa by car, and John Gifford, Limited, have just published his latest book, which embraces four trips he has made across the Sahara Desert and right down Africa to the Cape, the last being that heroic journey in an 18-85 h.p. Wolseley which nearly ended disastrously, but which was changed into a great triumph. The other trips were made in Morris and a Rolls-Royce.



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# COUNTRY LIFE

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## MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advertisements for this column are accepted AT THE RATE OF 2D. PER WORD prepaid (if Box Number used 6d. extra), and must reach this office not later than Friday morning for the coming week's issue.

All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL FOR COUNTRY HOUSES, FACTORIES, FARMS, ETC.**—No emptying of cesspools, no solids, no open filter beds; everything underground and automatic; a perfect fertiliser obtainable.—WILLIAM BEATTIE, 8, Lower Grosvenor Place, Westminster. (Tel.: Vic. 3120).

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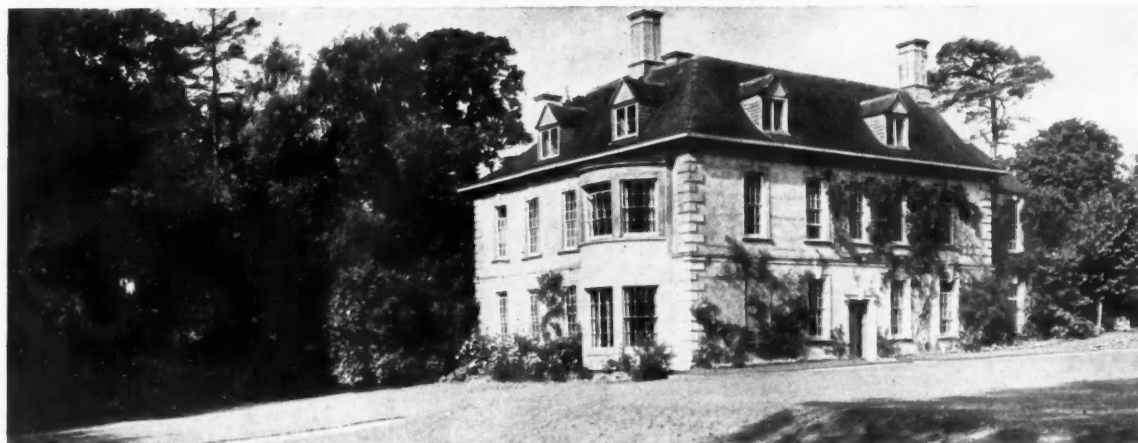
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A GENUINE XVIIITH CENTURY FARMHOUSE

*Completely modernised and standing in lovely Gardens intersected by a Stream.*



APPROACHED THROUGH A COURTYARD, it contains

4 RECEPTION ROOMS, GARDEN ROOM AND LOGGIA, 9 GOOD BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, VERY MODERN OFFICES.

*Central Heating. Co.'s Water. Electric Light.*

A LOVELY BLOCK OF OLD BUILDINGS encloses the Courtyard and incorporates a quaint Music Room (45ft. by 18ft.).

GARDEN AND MEADOWLAND OF 9 ACRES

4 INTERESTING OLD COTTAGES.

A FINE OLD TITHE BARN.

Illustrated particulars of the Sole Agents: Messrs. NICHOLAS, 1, Station Road, Reading.

Telephone:  
Grosvenor 3121  
(3 lines.)

## WINKWORTH & CO.

LAND AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS, 48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

BY ORDER OF TRUSTEES.

### SURREY



*In one of the most beautiful positions in the Home Counties, 750ft. above sea level, commanding very extensive views; dry sandy soil; rural surroundings, quite unspoiled but only 1½ miles from a railway station with good service.*

Hall, 4 reception rooms, billiard room, 12 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, complete domestic offices.

*The House is in first-class condition, well fitted, has Central Heating, Electric Light and Main Water.*

STABLING. GARAGES.  
2 COTTAGES. LODGE.

BEAUTIFUL  
OLD GROUNDS.

kitchen garden, range of glass, woodland and grassland.



26½ ACRES IN ALL

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Particulars and orders to view of the Sole Agents: WINKWORTH & Co., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1.

### WEST SUSSEX

*On a knoll, entirely surrounded by open private estate.*



A STONE-BUILT HOUSE

of 10-11 bed, 4 bath and 4 reception rooms.

*Central Heating. Electric Light. Stabling. Garage.*

FOR SALE WITH 100 ACRES OR TO LET

WINKWORTH & Co., Estate Offices, London, W.1.

### HERTS

3½ miles from main line Station. A walk from a secondary station.

A COMMODIOUS  
GEORGIAN MANSION  
WITH 400 ACRES

FOR SALE

Agents: WINKWORTH & Co.,  
48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, W.1.

### RURAL ESSEX

*On the edge of a quiet village; skilfully modernised, in excellent order, and ready for occupation without expenditure.*



A VERY ATTRACTIVE HALF-TIMBERED  
XVIIth CENTURY RESIDENCE

comprising halls, dining and drawing rooms and (all on one floor above), 5 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms; garage. Main water supply.

PRICE £2,500 with 5¼ ACRES

Or £100 p.a. Unfurnished.

WINKWORTH & Co., Mayfair, London, W.1.



# KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

Telephone:  
Mayfair 3771 (10 Lines)

THE ESTATE SALE ROOMS, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:  
Galleries, Wesdo, London

## A FEW MILES SOUTH OF LEITH HILL

Beautiful rural country; 11 miles Guildford.



A Fine Example of an ancient Timber-framed House reputed to have been a Hunting Box of Henry II. Carefully restored and modernised, and in an excellent state of preservation. 4 reception, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating, Co.'s electricity, gas and water. Garages, Barn, Out-buildings, Cottage. Grounds include rose garden, lawns, hard tennis court and swimming pool.

ABOUT 40 ACRES. For Sale, Freehold, at a reduced Price, or would be Let Furnished.

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (36,710.)

## SUSSEX COAST

Beautiful position close to sea; adjoining Downs, Golf Course



A Picturesque Modern House, built of stone, extremely well planned and in first-rate order throughout.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

All main services.

Garage.

Very beautiful GARDENS AND GROUNDS.

ABOUT 6 ACRES (would be divided). For Sale, Freehold, at a Moderate Price.

Sole Agents: KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (30,724.)

## 40 MILES NORTH-WEST OF LONDON

On the Outskirts of Picturesque Old Village

500ft. up, amid beautiful unspoilt country.

A Delightful Old House (circa 1600), built of stone, containing characteristic old features. 3 reception, 10 bed and dressing, bathroom, offices.

Central heating.

Co.'s electricity.

Garage. Stabling.

Modern Bungalow.

Attractive Gardens, 2 tennis courts, rose and kitchen garden, pastureland.



ABOUT 90 ACRES FOR SALE FREEHOLD

The House and Grounds would be Sold separately

Sole Agents: KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (37,916.)

## FAVOURITE HASLEMERE DISTRICT

Walking distance of Main Line Station (London one hour).

High ground; sandy soil; South aspect.

An exceptionally well-built Modern House, in first-rate order and constructed throughout of the best materials.

3 reception, 8 bed and dressing, bathroom, complete offices. Co.'s electricity and water.

Central heating. Stabling and garage premises, Cottage.

Well-timbered Gardens, very charmingly disposed, although quite inexpensive to maintain.



ABOUT 5½ ACRES

For Sale Freehold or would be Let Furnished.

Sole Agents: KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (38,241.)

# F. L. MERCER & CO.

SPECIALISTS IN THE DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY ESTATES AND HOUSES

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1.

Telephone: REGENT 2481.

## SURREY AND HANTS BORDERS

300ft. up, between Farnham and Basingstoke. 37 miles London.

CHARMING COUNTRY HOUSE



In the "modern Georgian" style, approached by a long drive. Artistically decorated, luxuriously appointed and in perfect order. Very attractive pillared hall with marble floor. 3 reception with oak floors, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 dressing rooms.

Main electric light and power. Co.'s water.

Central heating throughout. Hot and cold water in bedrooms.

Splendid Outbuildings. 2 Garages. Inexpensive Gardens, 14 acres of woodland and large paddock—let for £20 a year.

REDUCED TO £5,750. WITH 29 ACRES

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

## VIEWS TO CHANCTONBURY RING WEST SUSSEX

Occupying a lovely secluded position.

A SMALL COUNTRY HOUSE



of unusual character with 5-7 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, bathroom.

Main electricity. Central heating throughout.

Garages and stabling.

Inexpensive garden, 2 orchards, pastureland.

RATES UNDER £20 P.A.

13 ACRES.

LOW PRICE

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.

## A REGENCY HOUSE ON THE HILLS NEAR BATH

Facing due South, with lovely views.

STONE-BUILT COTSWOLD RESIDENCE

with large sash windows and green shutters. 3 large reception rooms (parquet floors), maids' sitting room, 6 bedrooms (4 with basins), 2 bathrooms. Main services; electric radiators. Gardener's cottage, 5 rooms and bath. Double garage. Swimming pool.



Tennis lawn, rockery, woodland and pasture.

3 ACRES. WAR-TIME PRICE. FREEHOLD

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## COUNTRY COTTAGE CHARACTER

DESCRIBES THIS ARTISTIC LITTLE HOUSE IN SURREY.

28 minutes from Waterloo. Adjoining commons and woods between Cobham and Esher.

Dining hall, lounge, study, 4 bed and dressing rooms, tiled bathroom.

Main electric light and power.

Central heating. Co.'s water.

GARAGE.

Woodland Garden.



¾ ACRE.

MODERATE PRICE

Agents: F. L. MERCER & Co., Sackville House, 40, Piccadilly, W.1. (Entrance in Sackville Street.) Tel.: Regent 2481.



# HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

Telephone: Regent 8222 (15 lines).

Telegrams: "Selanlet, Piccy, London."



## WEST SCOTLAND

A VERY ATTRACTIVE SPORTING AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

of 2,733 ACRES

LONG FRONTAGE TO SOUND OF MULL AND ADJOINING GOLF COURSE.

### EXCELLENT SMALL RESIDENCE

3 RECEPTION ROOMS,  
6 BEDROOMS,  
2 BATHROOMS,  
AND  
AMPLE DOMESTIC OFFICES.

*Electric light.*

IN FIRST-CLASS CONDITION



### HOME FARM.

MOORLAND AND WOODLAND.

Producing £250 per annum, including valuable feuing rights.

RIGHT OF FISHING IN 2 LOCHS.

**PRICE £5,750  
FOR QUICK SALE**

Full details from HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (N.40,501.) (REG. 8222.)

## TO BE LET UNFURNISHED OR SOLD FREEHOLD ON FRINGE OF GLORIOUS NEW FOREST

*Delightful situation. In no way isolated. 10 miles Bournemouth. Excellent sporting facilities.*

### THIS IMPOSING AND SUBSTANTIALLY-BUILT RESIDENCE

*Luxuriously appointed and only recently the subject of large expense in modernisation.*

PANELLED HALL,  
5 RECEPTION,  
10 OR MORE BED AND 2 DRESSING  
ROOMS,  
5 BATHROOMS AND COMPLETE  
OFFICES,  
MASSIVE OAK STAIRCASE.

*Own electric light. Well water.  
Modern drainage.*



2 COTTAGES.

SQUASH COURT.

STABLING. GARAGES.

LOVELY GARDENS AND  
GROUNDS.

Ornamental Water, Woodland, etc.

In all

**ABOUT 44 ACRES**

Agents, HAMPTON & SONS, LTD.,  
6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (N. 46,104.)  
(Tel.: REG. 8222.)

## A GEM OF THE TUDOR PERIOD

POLSHOT FARM, ELSTEAD, SURREY

5 MILES FROM GODALMING.

EXPRESS SERVICES TO LONDON.

*On outskirts of quaint village enjoying complete rurality and all countryside amenities.*

### A GENUINE FARM RESIDENCE

(circa 1500), cleverly modernised and restored, containing:

LOUNGE HALL,  
3 RECEPTION ROOMS,  
9 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS,  
AMPLE OFFICES.

*Co.'s electric light.*

*Central heating and independent hot water installations.*

**Abounding with old oak timbers, floors, panelling and characteristic features.**



COTTAGE. GARAGE (for 3 cars)  
CHAUFFEUR'S FLAT.  
PLAYROOM.

BEAUTIFULLY LAID-OUT  
GARDENS AND GROUNDS  
with hard court, together with rich pasture  
lands bordered by River Wey; in all

**ABOUT 32 ACRES  
FOR SALE FREEHOLD AT A  
TEMPTING FIGURE**

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and SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street,  
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## CIRCA 1500. OF INTRIGUING CHARACTER

IN A DELIGHTFUL PART OF SUSSEX BETWEEN TUNBRIDGE  
WELLS AND THE COAST.

*Full of oak beams, original fireplaces and other characteristic features.*



**16 ACRES FREEHOLD £3,850**

Agents, HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1.  
(C. 49315.) (REGENT 8222.)

Long drive approach.  
5 bedrooms, 2 reception  
rooms, bathroom.

Wash basins in all  
bedrooms.

Main electricity, water  
and drainage.

GARAGE.

SINGULARLY  
DELIGHTFUL  
GARDENS.

inexpensive to main-  
tain, orchard and  
meadowland.

## MARKET HARBOROUGH

*Fine views. Golf. Shooting. Hunting.*

FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

### THIS DIGNIFIED GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



**OVER 51 ACRES**

**DETERMINED TO SELL BARGAIN PRICE**

Sole Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1.  
(W. 24,107.) (Tel.: REGENT 8222.)

Hall, 4 reception, 15  
bed and dressing and  
4 bathrooms, complete  
offices.

*Co.'s electric light.*

*Main drainage.*

*Good water supply.*

Modern Hunting

Stables.

GARAGES.

2 COTTAGES.

Beautifully-timbered  
Gardens and Grounds of

**Estate Offices: 6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1**

**BRANCH OFFICE: HIGH STREET, WIMBLEDON COMMON (Phone: WIM. 0081)**



Telephone No.:  
Regent 4304.

# OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

28b, ALBEMARLE STREET  
PICCADILLY, W.1.

## WILTS-GLOS BORDERS

In a much favoured district, a few miles from Cirencester, finely placed for Hunting.

### DELIGHTFUL STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE OF COTSWOLD TYPE

4 reception, 11 bed and dressing rooms,  
4 bathrooms.

Main Electricity and Water.  
Central Heating.

Excellent Pasture Fields and  
**MODEL FARMERY**  
including modern cowhouse, dairy, etc.

**40 ACRES**

Would be Sold with less land if required.

Sole Agents, as above. (17,156.)



## SOMERSET

Fine sporting district. Easy reach of Taunton.

### UP-TO-DATE GEORGIAN HOUSE

In a beautifully wooded situation, high up, with  
panoramic views and long carriage drive approach.

Oak-panelled lounge and drawing room, 2 other reception,  
11 bed and dressing rooms (with lavatory basins), 2 bath-  
rooms.

Electric light. Central heating.  
Stabling. Cottage. Hard tennis court.

### SMALL PARK OF 20 ACRES

For SALE by OSBORN & MERCER. (17,016.)

## BETWEEN TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND THE COAST



### XIVth CENTURY CHARACTER HOUSE of real merit, pleasantly mellowed by time, whilst entirely up to date.

4 reception, 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Main electricity. Central heating, etc.

Garages. 2 Cottages.

### OLD-WORLD GARDENS OF SPECIAL APPEAL TO A GARDEN LOVER

In harmony with the character of the House.  
Woodland dells, with stream, cascades, etc.

### MODERATE PRICE WITH 21 ACRES

Delightful secluded situation, in heart of unspoilt rural  
surroundings, yet not at all isolated.

Sole Agents, as above. (17,143.)

## A Fine Old Elizabethan House

### A Capital Dairy Farm

### Long Stretch of Trout Fishing



The Property is easily accessible to such centres  
as Shrewsbury, Crewe, etc. The Residence stands  
high, on sandy soil, with southerly aspect, has about  
10 bedrooms, modern conveniences, etc., and is  
surrounded by Parklands. The land is rich pasture  
and there are splendid buildings.

**240 ACRES**

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER. (16,755.)

## NEAR NEWBURY

In well-wooded unspoilt country with views to the  
Hampshire Downs.—For Sale, at moderate price, a  
**CHARMING RESIDENCE OF GEORGIAN  
TYPE**

delightfully placed in its gardens and meadows, on  
gravel soil, with southerly aspect. It has 4 reception,  
10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, etc.

Main electricity. Central heating.

**STABLING. COTTAGE. 16 ACRES**

Agents, OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,179.)

## OXFORDSHIRE

Convenient for Oxford and London, situate in unspoilt  
rural surroundings, high up, and approached by a  
long carriage drive with LODGE.

### A DELIGHTFUL SMALL COUNTRY HOUSE

having lounge hall, 3 reception, 8 bedrooms, bathroom,  
modern conveniences. Stabling, Garage, Hard Tennis  
Court, paddock, woodland, etc.

**20 Acres**

For Sale by OSBORN & MERCER (14,191.)

# FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO. LONDON

29, Fleet Street, E.C.4

Central 9344 (6 lines).

AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS.

26, Dover Street, W.1

Regent 5681 (2 lines).



## BERKS

3 reception

4 Bed.

2 Bath.

1/2 acre.

## TWO COTTAGES

Suitable for

**Week-end and  
Evacuation**

Safe areas

**LOVELY POSITIONS**

**FOR SALE**

Details from FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., as above.

## SUSSEX

2 reception

5 Bed.

Bath.

30 acres.



**CORNWALL.**—Stratton (Bude 1 1/2 miles). Superior  
Residential **FREEHOLD PROPERTY** (close to church  
and shops, off main traffic). Standing in charming ornamental  
grounds of about 2 1/2 Acres. Exceptionally good order.  
Owner-occupied. 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bath-  
rooms, 3 w.c.s., cloakroom. 2 garages, stables; tennis court,  
greenhouses with heating apparatus; all main services.—  
Particulars from Sole Agents: KIVELL & SONS, Auctioneers,  
Bude.

## HEWITT & CO.,

LAND AGENTS, EXETER.

## DEVON

### AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT

Nearly 700 ACRES, comprised in  
**ONE OF THE FINEST FARMS IN THE COUNTY.**  
In first-rate order. In the same family many years.  
£16,000 ensures a **NETT RETURN** of 3 1/2 per cent.  
Further particulars from HEWITT & CO., Exeter. (A.906.)

## LAND, ESTATES AND OTHER PROPERTIES WANTED

**WANTED** (South of London) at moderate rental,  
COUNTRY HOUSE, with about 10 bedrooms,  
reception rooms additional, modern conveniences, neighbour-  
hood of good school. About 70 ACRES light agricultural  
land or park.—Full particulars: "A.569," c/o COUNTRY LIFE  
Offices, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

# THE ATTRACTIVE COUNTY OF HERTFORDSHIRE IN THE OLD AND HISTORIC CITY OF ST. ALBANS

A CHOICE MEDIUM RESIDENCE in a most get-at-able neighbourhood, with excellent motoring roads and express service to Town (about half-an-hour),  
recently thoroughly overhauled and ready for occupation. The Owner is having to Sell owing to necessary removal to another part of the country.



The HOUSE is of modern lay-out and  
easily worked, with 1 Acre of Garden.  
It can be easily run with two domestic  
helps and gardener-chauffeur.  
There are 4 reception rooms, cloakroom  
and maids' sitting room, 5 principal bed-  
rooms and dressing room and 2 bathrooms,  
4 secondary bedrooms, 3 lavatories, cellar,  
and usual pantries.

Coke hot-water boiler, with 2 radiators for  
heating.

Gas cooker and gas fires throughout.

The Garden contains tennis lawn, green-  
houses and fruit orchard.

**GARAGE FOR 2 CARS and Wash.**

**FOR SALE (or would be Let).**

The very moderate price asked  
is **£3,250**



THE PROPERTY IS FREEHOLD AND THE RATEABLE VALUE IS £116 PER ANNUM.  
For full particulars apply, Box "A.562," c/o COUNTRY LIFE Offices, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

# GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

Telephone No.:  
Grosvenor 1553 (4 lines)

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.I.

And at  
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.,  
12, Victoria Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1.

## KENT

In an enviable position, 400ft. above Sea Level.



HALL, 3 reception, library with gallery, 15 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, servants' hall. Central heating; main electric light; excellent water; modern drainage. Large Garage; 3 Cottages. Beautifully laid-out Gardens and Grounds. 2 well let Farms.

**FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 557 ACRES**

(The Residence and about 30 Acres would be sold separately.)

Inspected and recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE and SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.I. (A.2793.)

## MOATED OLD SUSSEX MANOR HOUSE



Wealth of old oak, beautifully modernised.  
7 bed, 3 bath, 3 reception rooms, with

GENTLEMAN'S FARM OF 250 ACRES,

with model range of farmbuildings.

2 COTTAGES and excellent Secondary Residence.

Valuable Woodlands and well watered pasture.

**FOR SALE AS A WHOLE OR WITH LESS LAND**

Inspected and recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE and SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.I. (A.2802.)

25 miles Aberdeen. First-class

## RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE



**MODERN GRANITE RESIDENCE.**—19 bed, 5 bath, 5-6 reception rooms. Central heating throughout. Garage, etc.

**900 ACRES**

Arable and some Woodland and Rough Pasture. Shooting and Trout Fishing.

**TO BE SOLD OR LET FURNISHED.**  
GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.I. (8642.)

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TURLORAN, Audley,  
London.

# TURNER LORD & RANSOM

127, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.I.

Telephone:  
Gros. 2838  
(3 lines.)



NEAR STOKE POGES GOLF COURSE.

**CHARACTER RESIDENCE.** 2 miles main line station; 3 panelled reception rooms, hall, 8 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, maids' room, usual offices; main electricity, gas and water; central heating; kitchen garden, tennis lawn, pretty gardens, paddock.

4 ACRES.

**FREEHOLD £5,500.**

Or would be Let Furnished.

TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, London, W.I.

A BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, EXCEPTIONALLY EQUIPPED RESIDENCE.

## NORTHANTS

300ft. up. South aspect.  
Long avenue drive. Lodge.

HALL, 4 RECEPTION ROOMS.  
8 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS.  
SERVANTS' HALL. EXCELLENT OFFICES.  
GARAGE. OUTBUILDINGS.

Radiators throughout, h. and c. water in bedrooms.

Independent hot water.

Electricity, oak floors, etc.

22 ACRES.

**FREEHOLD £6,500**

TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, London, W.I. (16,275.)



**CHARMING RESIDENCE IN QUEEN ANNE STYLE** (Surrey-Hants borders; 300ft. up).—LOVELY GROUNDS; tennis lawn, kitchen garden, flower garden, paddock, wood; 4½ acres. PICTURESQUE COTTAGE: 8 bedrooms, bathroom, 4 reception rooms, usual offices; main water and electricity; garages.

**£4,650 FREEHOLD,**

or might be Sold without paddock.

TURNER LORD & RANSOM, 127, Mount Street, W.I. (Tel.: Gros. 2838.)

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(6 lines)  
After Office hours  
Livingstone 1066

# CONSTABLE & MAUDE

COUNTRY PROPERTIES. TOWN HOUSES AND FLATS. INVESTMENTS.  
2, MOUNT STREET, LONDON, W.I (And at Shrewsbury)

## DEVON AND SOMERSET BORDERS

4 MILES MAIN LINE JUNCTION.



### AN ORIGINAL QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE

Hall, suite of panelled reception rooms, 12 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms.

Every comfort and convenience.

COTTAGE.

GARAGES AND STABLING.

**ABOUT 40 ACRES. FOR SALE**

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, London, W.I.

## OXFORD & BUCKS BORDERS



### CHARMING ELIZABETHAN COTTAGE RESIDENCE

In an unspoilt village within easy reach of Oxford.

3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom.

Company's water and electricity.

Thatched Cottage.

Garage.

DELIGHTFUL GARDENS.

**ABOUT 1½ ACRES. £2,950**

Sole Agents:

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.I.

## BETWEEN MIDHURST & PETERSFIELD

Magnificent views. Sandy soil.



Lounge, 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, tiled offices; every possible convenience.

LODGE. GARAGES AND STABLING.

Lovely Gardens, with hard tennis court and woodland.

**45 ACRES. FOR SALE**

OR WILL BE LET UNFURNISHED.

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.I.

**NORTHANTS. FOR SALE**  
**EARLY XVIIITH CENTURY RESIDENCE.**  
12 bedrooms, 4 reception, billiards room, 3 bathrooms, servants' hall, usual domestic offices.  
Company's light, main drainage, excellent water supply.  
Well timbered Parkland, grass tennis court, and 26 ACRES of Grassland.  
**£5,000.**

Apply: C.G.A. Ltd., Carlton House, Lower Regent Street, S.W.1.

**PENSAX COURT, ABERBERY.**  
(15 miles from Worcester and 28 from Birmingham.)

**TO BE LET.** from March 25th, 1940. This very attractive medium-sized COUNTRY RESIDENCE, in an unspoilt, bracing locality with beautiful outlook and good social and sporting amenities. 7 best bed and dressing rooms and maids' rooms, 4 reception rooms, usual offices, etc. Delightful grounds with lake. Inexpensive of upkeep; walled garden. Stabling and garage accommodation; Farmery; 3 Cottages and 40 Acres of rich pasture land.  
Apply: G. HERBERT BANKS, F.A.I., Worcester Street, Kidderminster.

**BUCKS-OXON BORDERS.**—XVITH CENTURY RESIDENCE. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms; Garages, etc. 1½ Acres. Main services; accessible position. Price £1,600 for quick Sale.—Apply: WILLIAM WILLETT, LTD., Sloane Square, S.W.1. (Tel.: Slo. 8141.)

**LEICESTERSHIRE. HOLLOWAY, PRICE & CO.,**  
(ESTABLISHED 1809.) **MARKET HARBOROUGH.**  
**LAND AND HOUSE AGENTS**



## CURTIS & HENSON

LONDON

Telephones:  
Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)

Telegrams:  
"Submit, London."

**SHELTERED BY THE QUANTOCK HILLS** (8 miles from Taunton).—Charming XVth CENTURY HOUSE. Great hall, 2 reception rooms, study, 7 bedrooms, bathroom. Garage; 5 loose boxes; tithe barn. Flower garden and walled kitchen garden, pasture, orchard and small lake. About 26 ACRES. Golf. Hunting. For Sale at a Reduced Price or Would be Let Unfurnished.—CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,369.)

**ON THE SURREY HILLS** (London about half-an-hour by rail).—Charming PERIOD RESIDENCE in excellent order. Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, excellent offices, 5 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, nursery, 3 servants' bedrooms. Company's electricity; central heating. 2 Cottages, stabling and farmbuildings. Well laid-out Pleasure gardens and 2 orchards; in all about 6 ACRES. For Sale Freehold at reasonable price, or Would be Let Unfurnished. Recommended.—CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,636.)

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** (near Chesham and Amersham; 25 miles North-west of London).—Attractive GEORGIAN RESIDENCE; completely renovated and modernised. 4 reception rooms, billiards room, 12 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms. Co.'s electric light and water; central heating. Garages; stabling; and 2 cottages. The Pleasure Gardens and lawns slope south from the house to the River Chess, which provides good trout-fishing. Hard tennis court, meadowland and kitchen garden; in all about 30 ACRES. For Sale Freehold or to Let Furnished. (16,129.)

### NEW FOREST

5 MILES FROM LYMINGTON.



### AN ATTRACTIVE LOW-BUILT HOUSE RECENTLY REDECORATED

Very secluded position commanding fine views to the Isle of Wight.

3 reception rooms, library, billiards room, domestic offices, 6 principal bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 4 servants' bedrooms, bathroom and lavatories.

Main water, gas and electricity.

**ATTRACTIVE GARDENS AND GROUNDS** in good order, including woods, orchard, arable and grazing land and kitchen garden; in all about 13 ACRES.

**FOR SALE or WOULD BE LET**

CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (16,470)

**SHROPSHIRE** (3 miles from Ludlow).—Attractive GEORGIAN HOUSE, facing South, about 200ft. above sea level. Large hall, 4 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, nurseries, 4 bathrooms. Electric light; central heating. Garage; stabling. 7 cottages. The grounds include 2 tennis courts, kitchen gardens, small wood, well-stocked orchards and pastureland; in all about 70 ACRES. Trout-fishing; golf; hunting. For Sale Freehold.—CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.1. (15,180a.)

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UNFURNISHED LEASE OF 11 YEARS TO BE ASSIGNED AT LOW RENT.  
Would Let Furnished.

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20 MILES BY ROAD.  
Adjacent to old-world village and church.

3 reception, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.  
Main electricity and water. Central heating. Garages and stabling. Matured gardens of great age.

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On 2 floors entirely.  
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SPOTLESS ORDER THROUGHOUT.

Large sums lately spent on improvements.

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SITUATED IN WELL WOODED COUNTRY IN A MOST ENVIABLE SETTING.



**THE RED BRICK QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE STANDS ON A TERRACE IN A BEAUTIFULLY SHELTERED POSITION, FACES DUE SOUTH AND COMMANDS PANORAMIC VIEWS TO THE SOUTH DOWNS.**

The accommodation includes: 4 reception rooms, study, 16 bed and dressing rooms (including nurseries and servants' accommodation), 5 bathrooms, excellent offices.

LODGE, GARAGES AND STABLING.

**TERRACED GARDENS OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY. WOODLAND WALKS.**

HOME FARM with good modern buildings and 4 cottages.

**The Property extends to about 168 ACRES.**

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substantially built, with 1 Acre of attractive garden, including tennis court; secluded position.

Exceptionally good

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Easy reach of Aylesbury. Outskirts of beautiful Village.



#### ORIGINAL XVth CENTURY HOUSE

Tudor panelled brickwork, oak beams, open fireplaces. 7 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4 reception. Magnificent Old Barn-Garage. Lovely Old Gardens; swimming pool, hard court.

FOR SALE WITH 8 ACRES

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#### EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE

On the outskirts of a large Village. 10 bedrooms, 3 well-appointed bathrooms, 4 magnificent reception rooms. Parquet floors, oak panelling, beautifully decorated. All main services. Central heating. Stabling. Garages with rooms over. Lodge. Well-timbered Grounds with hard court. 3½ Acres.

LOW PRICE FOR QUICK SALE

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### A PROPERTY OF UNUSUAL CHARACTER

Perfectly secluded. In perfect country, only 36 miles South of Town, 6 miles of main line station.

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recently modernised and enlarged at great cost, now having central heating and all modern comforts.

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3 BATHROOMS.

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and large Lake of 6 Acres.

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#### A MODERATE-SIZE, EASILY-RUN COUNTRY HOUSE

containing:

LOUNGE HALL, FINE DRAWING ROOM,

DINING ROOM,

7 BEDROOMS, 2 DRESSING ROOMS,

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Central heating. Company's electric light and water.

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DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS

with fine trees, tennis court, flower and kitchen garden.

ALL IN EXCELLENT ORDER.

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On the fringe of WOOLER in beautiful Glendale Valley.

#### DETACHED STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE

known as

"MILLVALE," WOOLER.

3 reception, 6 bed, bathroom, kitchen (Triplex range), etc. Garage 3 cars; 2 loose boxes. Main water and electricity. Matured walled-in flower, fruit and vegetable gardens.

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About 1 mile from the favourite small Cotswold town of Patuxwell.

FOR SALE

EXCEPTIONALLY

#### WELL-BUILT STONE RESIDENCE

standing about 600ft. up in a beautiful part of the Cotswolds, commanding fine views.

Good hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms,

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STABLING and GARAGE.

DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS

including tennis lawn, and park-like Pasture; in all

ABOUT 6½ ACRES

Electric Light. Good water supply.

HUNTING WITH COTSWOLD PACK.

2 Golf Links within easy reach.

PRICE £4,500

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GENT'S RESIDENCE, MODERN: 3 entertaining, 4 beds, billiard room. COST OVER £5,000. Oak and maple floors. Rates £30 p.a. Only needs seeing. Reduced, £2,750, or Let. Mortgage £2,200 if desired.—EDWARDS, MOORINGS, Fforddissa, Prestatyn

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2 reception, 4 bedrooms (interior sprung mattresses), electric fires, kitchen and scullery, bath (h. and c. separate lavatory). Big Garage. Electric light. Large gardens back and front.

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### SEAFORD, SUSSEX—near the Sea

THIS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-BUILT RESIDENCE

occupying an open position to the South,  
and standing in the midst of most

ATTRACTIVE GARDENS  
AND GROUNDS  
OF NEARLY 4 ACRES.

FINE HALL AND LANDING MOST  
SUITABLE FOR A PICTURE GALLERY

Library, delightful sitting room with bow  
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offices.



The fittings and appointments are of  
EXCEEDINGLY GOOD  
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PANEL HEATING.  
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GARAGE AND  
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#### THE ABOVE BEAUTI- FULLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE

approached along a private road  
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7 or 9 BEDROOMS.  
2 BATHROOMS.  
BEAUTIFUL LOUNGE and  
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Central heating.  
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All main services.

HARD TENNIS COURT.  
Garage for several cars and flat  
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BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED  
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In all about  
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*On the fringe of the beautiful New Forest. 10 miles of Bournemouth. About 3 miles from the Coast.*

**FOR SALE FREEHOLD**

this important RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, considered to be one of the most charming seats in the South of England.

The magnificent Residence has recently been the subject of considerable expense by the present owner in bringing it up to present-day requirements, and the whole is now in perfect condition.

The accommodation comprises:

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 FINE SUITE OF RECEPTION ROOMS.  
 EXCELLENT DOMESTIC OFFICES.



Particulars and order to view can be obtained of FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

EXTENSIVE STABLING and GARAGE ACCOMMODATION.

2 EXCELLENT COTTAGES.

DAIRY HOUSE.

*Electric Lighting Plant.*

**THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS**

are beautifully matured and of exceptional merit and seclusion, superbly arranged with herbaceous growths and flowering shrubs, lawns and very fine specimens of ornamental and forest trees; water garden with timber-built boathouse; the whole extending to an area of about

**44 ACRES**

**PRICE £8,500 FREEHOLD**

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ON THE STAFFORDSHIRE BORDERS

6 MILES FROM DERBY. 2 MILES FROM BURTON-ON-TRENT.

THE WELL KNOWN FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND SPORTING ESTATE,

**EGGINTON ESTATE**

including the  
 ADAM PERIOD RESIDENCE, "EGGINTON HALL,"  
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 7-ACRE LAKE, MATURED GROUNDS.

15 ACRES.

**ELEVEN DAIRY FARMS**

WITH EXCELLENT HOUSES AND AMPLE FARM BUILDINGS. 4 SMALL HOLDINGS. 112 ENCLOSURES OF ACCOMMODATION LANDS AND BUILDING SITES.

**NEARLY THE WHOLE OF EGGINTON VILLAGE**

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17 ENCLOSURES OF PLANTATIONS AND WOODLANDS. 3 MILES OF FISHING RIGHTS IN RIVER DOVE. 1½ MILES OF FISHING RIGHTS IN TRENT AND MERSEY CANAL.

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*Only 5½ miles from the Sea. 2 miles from Wareham, 15 miles from Bournemouth. Overlooking the Valley of the Frome.*

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8 BEDROOMS,  
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 MAIDS' SITTING ROOM,  
 GOOD DOMESTIC OFFICES.  
 GARAGE. STABLING.



Large Glasshouses.

LODGE. COTTAGE.

**INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS**

Lawn for two tennis courts, kitchen garden, orchard, woodland; the whole extending to an area of about

**22 ACRES**

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High up; extensive views of the Sussex Downs.

## COMFORTABLE FAMILY RESIDENCE

with panelled hall, 3 large reception, 6 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, complete offices with servants' hall.

## GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.

Range of useful outbuildings, chauffeur's flat, etc.

Electric light. Excellent water. Modern drainage.  
Central heating throughout.  
Independent hot water supply.

## WELL-MATURED GROUNDS

tennis and other lawns, herbaceous borders, kitchen garden and well-established orchard, one of the finest in Sussex, of selected apple and plum trees.

## IN ALL 4 ACRES

## FOR SALE ON MODERATE TERMS



THE TENNIS COURT FROM THE TERRACE

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45 minutes from London. On high ground. Commanding panoramic views to the South Downs from Chantonbury Ring to Birling Gap.

## THIS INTRIGUING CHARACTER RESIDENCE

forming an excellent replica of a Tudor residence, with many unusual features and built regardless of cost.

HALL. 3 RECEPTION ROOMS.

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(with lavatory basins, h. and c.).

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TASTEFULLY DISPOSED GROUNDS  
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In the heart of the Devon and Somerset Stag Hunting, situate on the outskirts of an old-world village and 6 miles from an excellent town.

## AN OLD-WORLD THATCHED RESIDENCE

facing south and commanding fine views.

3 reception, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maids' sitting room.

STABLING FOR 4. GARAGE FOR 2

Main water. Electric light and drainage.

Partial central heating.

BEAUTIFUL WALLED GARDEN of about 2 ACRES.

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Bracing and Healthy position. Near Golf Course. TO BE LET FURNISHED AT A LOW RENTAL (including gardener's wages).

## A PICTURESQUE RESIDENCE

with electric light, central heating, and all conveniences.

2 RECEPTION. 5 BEDROOMS.

2 BATHROOMS. GARAGE.

## WELL-MATURED GARDENS

Flower beds. Kitchen garden. Fruit trees.

In all about

3 ACRES

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## ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY HOUSE TO BE LET FURNISHED

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Cloak room. Servants' hall. Offices.

Companies' services.

GARAGE AND STABLING.

GARDEN AND PADDOCK.

Low rent accepted for good tenants.

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## ONLY £2,750 FREEHOLD KINGSWOOD, SURREY

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Definite bargain for discriminating purchaser.

Within easy reach of Walton Heath Golf Course.



RESIDENCE OF UNUSUAL CHARACTER  
with lounge hall, 3 good reception, oak staircase, 5 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, complete offices.

All conveniences, including central heating.

Garage for 2 cars with large room over.

STATELY TIMBERED GROUNDS with matured oak, birch and fruit trees, sunk rose garden, etc.

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## On KENT and SUSSEX BORDERS

c.14.

Facing full South with magnificent views.



## ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

on bus route; 3 miles station; 10 miles Tunbridge Wells or the coast.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, play room, 7 bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating and all main services. Two boilers. Garage.

DELIGHTFUL GARDENS, tennis lawn, kitchen garden, orchard and grass woodland.

IN ALL OVER 2½ ACRES

FREEHOLD £2,250

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## ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOUSE

with thatched roof.

3 RECEPTION. 5 BEDROOMS (3 fitted basins)

BATHROOM

Main water and electricity.

GARAGE. GARDEN ROOM.

TERRACED AND KITCHEN GARDENS OF

ABOUT HALF AN ACRE

FREEHOLD £1,950

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## 8 MILES N.W. OF GLOUCESTER

c.5.

## ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

facing South.

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BATHROOM. CLOAKROOM. OFFICES.

Electric light. Co.'s water, etc.

GARAGE AND OUTBUILDINGS.

INEXPENSIVE GROUNDS

Paddock and woodland. In all about

15 ACRES

5 GUINEAS a week FURNISHED or £130 per annum

UNFURNISHED on a yearly tenancy.

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Views over St. Ives Bay.

## ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

on Cliff Edge.

HALL. 2 3 RECEPTION.

4 BEDROOMS (basins h. and c.).

BATHROOM. OFFICES.

Co.'s electric light, gas and water. Modern cesspool drainage.

GARAGE.

GARDEN—SANDY SOIL

FREEHOLD £2,200 FULLY FURNISHED

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BY APPOINTMENT  
TO THE LATE  
KING GEORGE V.



BY APPOINTMENT  
TO HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN MARY.



"GOING TO MARKET"  
Oil Painting by W. F. WITHERINGTON, R.A.  
Signed and dated 1847. Canvas size, 42 in. x 33 in.  
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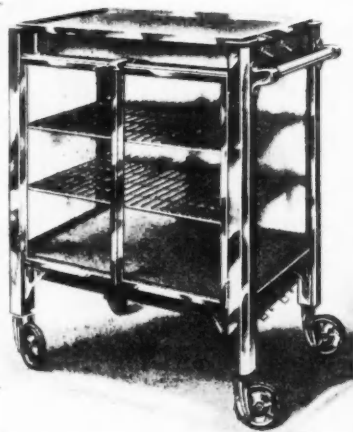
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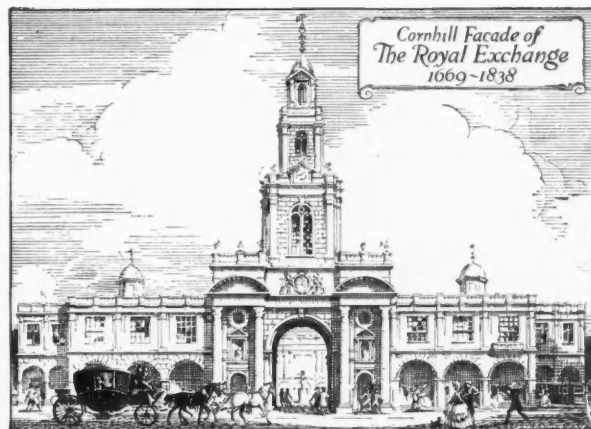
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# LANDSCAPES NEW AND OLD



A VIEW OF BATH, BY FRANCIS TOWNE

**T**HE annual exhibition of water-colour and pencil drawings at Messrs. Agnew's is liveliest in the modern section, where exceptionally good work is to be seen. The beauty of the English countryside, of bare trees in winter and flower-filled gardens in summer, of sea and snow and flood-water, provide subjects full of colour and admit of very varied treatment. The different painters' work has been hung in groups so that each personality stands out emphatically. The country scenes by Franklin White are drawn with exquisite delicacy; the rhythm of the figures and the plants in "Rose Bay" are perfectly sustained in spite of the accurate naturalism of every detail. On the opposite wall similar fragrant and luminous themes are treated with greater strength and carrying power by Gilbert Spencer. Between these two is a group of lovely drawings by Paul Nash, mostly early ones done soon after the last war when the artist was so successfully transcribing the elements of landscape into a decorative formula. His more recent preoccupation with "found objects" appears in one drawing only, entitled "Object at Scarbank." Here we see not only a new interest of associated ideas, but a far more plastic conception of the scene as well as of the object. Among the artists of the older generation, Wilson Steer and D. S. McColl have brilliant water-colours, and John and Sickert are both represented by a group of drawings. The centre of the early English water-colours is a beautiful "Landscape with a Farm-cart," by Gainsborough, flanked by two romantic scenes with rocks and castles by Skelton, and a series of drawings by Francis Towne and his pupil, J. W. Abbott. Towne's distant view of Bath may confirm Catharine Morland's dismissal of it in Northanger Abbey as "unworthy to make part of a picture." One of the most powerful of these early drawings is a "Mountain Landscape" in monochrome, by John Varley. Many of them are interesting chiefly on account of their topography, recording buildings that have since vanished or have

been altered out of all recognition. Incidentally, they reflect the taste of the day for the romantic ruins of antiquity or of the Middle Ages. The day will come when a similar interest will be added to some of the records made to-day of vanishing buildings, and of our present discoveries in the legacy of the past.

John Piper has expressed his feelings about the bow-fronted houses of Regency Brighton, and at the Leicester Galleries Anthony Gross is showing his records of war-time London, which consist not only of sandbags but of some of the more remote and forgotten architectural masterpieces, as, for example, St. John's Church and School, Wapping. At the same gallery there is a collection of sculpture and drawings by Henry Moore, and a most exhilarating exhibition of paintings by Ivon Hitchens. At first sight these seem to be entirely joyous symphonies of colour, but by degrees they resolve themselves into shapes, as beautiful and well organised as the colours. Another gifted colourist, Rodrigo Moynihan, who is holding an exhibition of paintings at the Redfern Galleries, adheres more closely to natural appearances, and his paintings are often reminiscent of Manet. Both these artists treat oil paint with reverence, preserving its freshness and giving final expression to every brush stroke.

**The Stafford Gallery.**—The fourth exhibition of the British Art Centre is entitled "People and Flowers," and it is a happy combination of pictures, the flower-pieces relieving the monotony of too many portraits. One of the most interesting paintings from the point of view of subject is the portrait of Humbert Wolfe by his wife, Jessie Wolfe; and there is a decorative study of a Spaniard by Oliver Messel.

**The National Society** at the Royal Institute Galleries in Piccadilly is having its first open exhibition, to which the work of non-members is admitted. It is and always has been a mixed society, incorporating every grade of quality and style. The three pictures by Edward le Bas are among the most pleasing,

and there are interesting exhibits of sculpture and pottery in addition to paintings and drawings.

**The Ackermann Galleries** have a small exhibition of sculpture and drawings by Jessica Stoner. Her portrait heads are vigorous, though perhaps a little too dramatic in pose. The reliefs, on the other hand, are very low and simplified, yet with a well defined character. The small medallion of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent is an excellent likeness.

**Leggatt Brothers** have several old sporting pictures on view. The magnificent hound by Desportes is obviously painted with relish and understanding by an artist who had specialised in animals, but was thoroughly accomplished as a painter.

Another interesting exhibit is a very early conversation picture representing Francis Hutcheson, the Irish philosopher, and his daughter, dated 1721 and painted by Jan Carel Vierpyl. As a record of contemporary fashions and furniture it is of the greatest value, showing a library with high-backed upholstered chairs and a finely carved stool with loose cushions. M.C.



ROSE BAY, BY FRANKLIN WHITE



FROSTY AIR, BY GILBERT SPENCER

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## MINIATURE AGRICULTURE



"A TEAM OF GREEDY HENS SNAPPING UP EVERY GRUB DISCLOSED"

IN the drive to get more food out of our land the farmer is intensively prodded, directed and assisted. He is involved in his rotations, and follows, for the most part, when not excessively interfered with, plans long laid toward some distant goal. He has his equipment, his implements and his staff, and though he may have his private perplexities, his way is, at all events, fairly clear before him. The smallholder or owner of a small amenity estate is in very different case. He has imbibed, we may be sure, some part of the great new urge to grow more food, but in most cases he is in some bewilderment as to how to put it into effect. His little paddock, rough, hilly, and confined, seems no place for the multi-furrow plough and ponderous tackle of Mr. Blank the contractor; and his farmer friends, though sympathetic, are all too far behindhand with their own work to have time to help him. The space is far too large for his limited staff to dig by hand, and the regrettable fact that the later agricultural shows were cancelled last year will have prevented him stumbling on the solution as he otherwise would probably have done. For, generally speaking, there is but one solution to his problem, and that is the Garden Tractor.

These implements are of many kinds, but the chief characteristic which distinguishes them from their brothers of the farm is that they are two-wheelers guided by a man walking behind them. This lay-out gives the maximum possible manœuvrability; indeed the models fitted with a reverse gear can be used to cultivate a patch ten feet square without any danger of their damaging standing crops all around. The desired implements for one of these machines are a plough, a rotary plough or rototiller, a roller, a harrow, and a hoe. With such an equipment the owner or occupier of a small place can embark on agriculture in miniature with a certain confidence. Under these conditions the folded hen may replace the folded sheep of the farm proper and will be found to be not only very nearly as good a grazer and provider of manure, but to have the added valuable quality of being able to turn the wireworms and cockchafers, whose removal from the soil is a vital necessity, into delicious fresh eggs.

Assuming that the terrain is a rough, neglected pony-paddock of two acres or so, there will be some preliminary work required to prepare the ground for the plough, always the essential primary implement of agriculture whether great or small, and this will perforce have to be done by hand. In the first place the poultry, which I



RANSOME'S MOTOR CULTIVATOR, "M.G.2"

would postulate as an important factor in the financial success of the venture, should be so fenced as to have the run of the whole area to be broken. They should be rather sparingly fed with a little grain by whoever is working on the land, in such a manner as to get them into the habit of hanging around the worker on the look-out for any insects he may turn up. In this way they will account for an astonishing number of pests even in the first operations of clearing out the field-drains and ditches, grubbing out seedling thorns, brambles and birches, and scything off rough weeds too tall and coarse to be buried by the plough. They will also do a great deal of good to the grass, from the point of view of future arable, by scratching it about and eating off any young growth. Their evening meal should, of course, be an ample one, but even an experienced poultry farmer, used only to untrained birds confined in runs, would be amazed at the large proportion of their food that will be found even in winter by birds kept under the conditions described. By the time the land is ready for ploughing, the hens should know the wireworm, cockchafer and leatherjacket as delicacies to be eagerly sought for in any newly turned earth. The air-cooled engine of motor-cycle type usual on garden tractors makes rather an alarming noise, but if the birds are kept a little short on the first day's ploughing and a little corn is scattered in the furrows they soon become accustomed to it and even learn to come rushing up whenever they hear the engine started. The idea is to have a strong team of greedy hens following the implement closely and snapping up every grub disclosed. When this is done effectively one of the chief dangers with newly broken grassland is obviated.

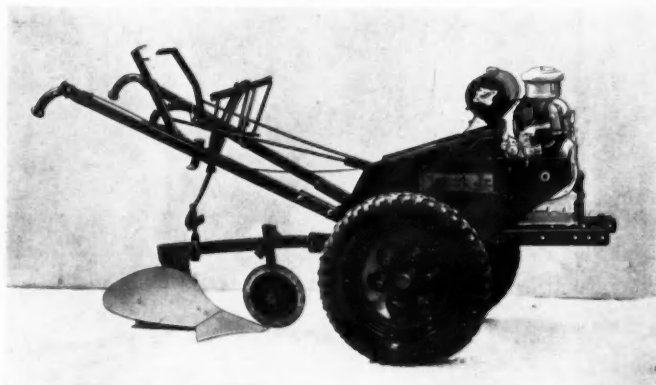
Some garden tractors have one-way ploughs which enable one to avoid the trouble of setting out ridges, but the little machines are so easily handled in comparison with the big farm tractors that it makes little difference which type is fitted once the theory of ploughing is mastered. Further cultivations will depend upon what crop it has been decided to grow. If a corn crop is required, the roller and the harrow may be the only further implements needed; the land, if light and dry, can be rolled perhaps immediately after ploughing to press the furrows down, fertiliser and seed are broadcast and then harrowed lightly in. On the other hand, if a vegetable crop is wanted it will be advantageous to give deeper cultivations, in which case the rotary plough is the implement *par excellence*, for, taking about five or six inches at a time, it is



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possible to break up the ground thoroughly down to any required depth, and the soil is so finely pulverised that almost all the pests will be exposed to feed the hungry attendant flock. For potatoes the soil can be left in ridges ready for planting, and these can then be turned over the sets in the furrows with the greatest convenience. The action of the Rototiller is somewhat similar, but its pulverising movement cannot be controlled as to angle like that of the rotary plough, and so it cannot clear its own way to get increased depth, or form ridges and furrows. The "forced tilth" obtained with such implements is frowned upon by some farmers, but, at all events in light soils, results are not to be despised, and there is certainly a great saving of time in obtaining the tilth necessary for a seed-bed by force at once, rather than waiting for the action of frost and alternate wettings and dryings to break up the clods. Before sowing, the poultry must either be enclosed elsewhere, say in a fold unit in the kitchen garden, or moved on to the next piece of land to be dealt with, there to repeat their good offices.

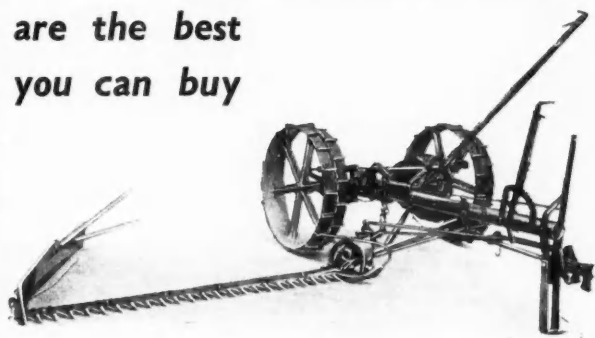
Many garden tractors can also be fitted with a mower, which is easily adjustable so that the crop can also often be harvested by the machine when the time for that happy event arrives. One of the most invaluable of the implements is certainly the horse-hoe; it is available for most types and will prove its worth even in the kitchen garden by saving hours of labour in keeping down weeds between the rows. As regards the method of attaching

the various implements to the tractor, the different makes vary in the system adopted, but it is usually no more than a matter of a few bolts and nuts. When out of use the machine can be stored in any shed.

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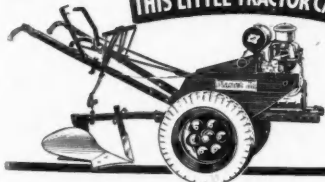
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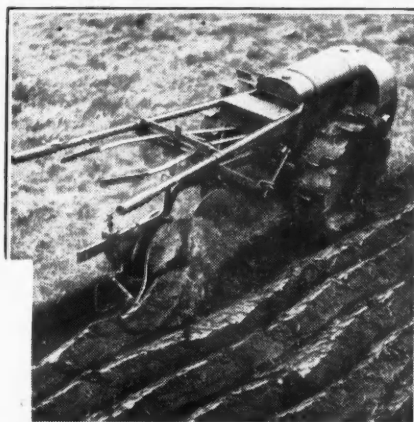
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## HARDY PLANTS IN THE SHRUB GARDEN

**D**ESIRABLE plants for this purpose may be placed roughly in three categories. The first containing those whose beauty of habit and flower is such that we would not readily be without them, however "shrub-minded" choice or circumstances may have made us. The second, those most valuable of all types which, by reason of their slender habit, take up little space, but yet have a high decorative value to adorn a planting with their flowers either earlier or later than the main shrub effect. The third category would then embrace those close-growing mountain plants which carpet the ground and provide attractive low foreground effects without any danger of their impeding the growth of the shrubs or masking their forms.

As regards the plants of the first category there are certain important factors which must, perforce, limit our choice, at all events wherever it is a question of growing them in close proximity to flowering shrubs.

For example, the herbaceous phlox have the valuable characteristics both of suitability of habit in tone with shrubs from the aesthetic standpoint and of convenient flowering-time in late summer when fewer shrubs are in bloom, yet the rampant nature of their growth is such as to preclude their use near valuable shrubs. They soon smother them, or at the least spoil their symmetry by discouraging the low bushy habit which it is our aim to attain. Again, the beautiful delphinium must be put out of court, because, however desirable the inoffensive growth and towering spires of blue may seem, the sad fact remains that it looks quite out of place among shrubs. It seems to demand the setting of the herbaceous border. Then, too, there is the question of cultural conditions to be considered. The dianthus family, here at all events, dwindle quickly into death in the acid leaf-mould in which so many shrubs revel so unmistakably. At the same time, in a well drained open spot where the soil was limy there would probably be a different story to tell.

Among the best examples of the first category I should place that superb iris known as *Kaempferi*. Though it looks its best by the waterside, any bed where the soil is deep and rich and does not dry out in the growing season can be adorned by its graceful form, and it should flower freely there, provided it receives the full force of the sun. The double-flowered types are particularly handsome, though now somewhat scarce if one may judge from the preponderance of weak-coloured single forms exhibited in the last few years. It seems that the deep purple double *Thundercloud* has as good a constitution as the singles, but it is often found that, in a mixed bed, the other fine doubles

tend to die out unless given special attention. Another fine plant of this class is *Pæonia lobata*. The foliage, of the usual peony form, is distinguished by being of a pure rich green without the red or grey tones found in the leaves of most other peonies, and the cup-shaped carmine-scarlet flowers are devoid of any of the blue pigment which is such a characteristic ingredient of the colouring of the race. In a deep turfy loam I find it a strong grower whose only enemy is the wireworm which occasionally

destroys a promising stem just below ground level, and any tiny piece of root left in the ground makes a fine plant of itself, in time. Among the Knap Hill azaleas they add their rich note in the gaps left between the young plants, and never become unduly invasive. *Linum perenne* is another favourite, producing a cloud of airy blue flowers beautifully poised on hair-like stems over a long period. After heavy rain these may be lying dragged upon the ground, but the moment the sun or wind dries them, they are up again without assistance,

looking as graceful as ever. When in late July the last flower has fallen, and the stems are heavy with seed, the whole top is sheared off about a couple of inches above the ground, and it then re-forms into a neat tuft for the winter. It produces a convenient number of seedlings without help, and these are easily removed and dealt with as required. A hot, dry, well drained spot in full sun seems to be most to the liking of this charming flax, which I prefer to the larger-flowered but less brilliant and floriferous *L. narbonense*. Another delightful plant in the "indispensable" list is *Dicentra spectabilis*; the arching wands decked with pendent coral hearts and delicate fern-like foliage provide a delightful foil to the more solid charms of the Pink Pearl type of rhododendron flowering at the same time. In spite of its short-lived nature, making frequent replenishment necessary, we shall not, either, wish to be without the tobacco (*Nicotiana affinis*), for the rich fragrance in late summer adds a particular delight to the evening stroll and its appearance is of a quiet "woodland" nature most appropriate among large shrubs.

In the second category the lily family are far the most important members. Indeed, the association of shrubs and lilies is so apt, both culturally and aesthetically, that one might almost say that the shrub gardener must, perforce, be a lily grower and the lily gardener a shrub grower. For the lily has ideal qualifications as a partner for the shrubs. The slender stem does not hamper the weakest bushlet, the immense and glorious flowers are borne when the cream of shrub bloom is over, and the lilies themselves benefit greatly from the ground shade with the cool moist conditions for the roots thus engendered. Regrettably having



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had to pass over the dearly loved but disease-ridden Madonna of the old type, we shall give a particularly warm welcome to the new seed-raised Salonica form, with its interesting and promising new feature of producing a second crop of flowers alongside those first opening, in the hope that it may prove really resistant to the scourge of botrytis. But the wise will be careful to keep any form of *Lilium candidum* well away from any bed where any other lilies, like *L. regale*, are growing. Provided that we remember that this latter species is more of an open-ground plant than most other lilies, preferring the drier and sunnier beds among the brooms and azaleas to the more moist and shady quarters arranged for rhododendrons, we shall probably decide upon it as one of the most satisfactory of all lilies for the decoration of our gardens in July.

In the shadier beds, among the rhododendrons, *Lilium auratum* is supreme, and we shall need both the forms most commonly sold. For what passes for the "type" form flowers, on a short stem little more than three feet high, just after the regales in late July or early August, while the variety *platyphyllum* flowers a fortnight later on stems from four to six feet high and more. Both types need careful staking for the huge flowers become too heavy for the stems in wet weather. Mice are very destructive to this lily, having a nasty trick of eating off the tops of the shoots in the earlier stages.

In the category of carpeters and low foreground plants we may well divide them into those suited to open positions on the one hand or on the other those that will grow among larger shrubs under shadier and moister conditions. Where there is a raised edging of rough stones in an open position, nearly all the semi-alpines and many of the true alpines will find a congenial home. Among the most perfect for our purpose are the alpine phloxes, and though the more delicate varieties, such as the beautiful *Vivid*, of purest rose, or *Camlensis*, in pale pink, take a considerable time to form a mat of any size, some of the stronger-growing sorts with more ragged flowers of less pure tone soon cover a large area with a fine dense carpet. A plant of this type which I have just measured had attained a diameter of four feet six inches, and it is still extending at the usual rate. *Geranium lancastriense*, *Campanula muralis*, *Arenaria montana* and the ever useful *aubrietias* are other examples of good plants of this kind which require a minimum of attention. I find it necessary to shear



CARPETING PLANTS AT THE EDGE OF THE SHRUB BORDER

Broad mats of dwarf phlox and lithospermum afford a charming effect in the foreground

away all the season's growth from the *aubrietias* in late June, leaving only a few inches of stem above ground. When this is done the plants are saved the ordeal of ripening their seed and grow into neat green mats again by late summer.

As carpeters and low foreground plants for the shadier places, the choice, while adequate, is more restricted, though the *primula* and *meconopsis* families could alone supply all that could be accommodated in any but a very large garden. Of other types it would be hard to find a more attractive plant than the wood lily (*Trillium grandiflorum*); the dainty three-petalled flowers of a gleaming pure white appear in May, and it flourishes in the shaded moist leaf-mould of the rhododendron beds. Of the later bloomers, for some years the Shamrock pea (*Parochætus communis*) was a very welcome inhabitant of such places, but the rigours of last winter proved fatal to it. This was not surprising, for at the time of the dread visitation, on December 18th, its brilliant blue pea flowers were at the height of their glory. It propagates so readily from runners, however, that its reinstatement is easily arranged.

For providing an autumn carpet of blue, *Gentiana sino-ornata* is a more reliable plant and easily propagated by division.

Our native wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) is not to be despised, nor is the common creeping jenny, for both have the useful quality of holding down the leafy mulch in rhododendron beds without harming the shrubs. Where the shade is less dense, the invaluable forget-me-not is a plant to be encouraged, for with no trouble at all it provides a sea blue mist that sets off the charms of almost any spring-flowering shrub to the greatest advantage. Furthermore, the plants form a useful protection in warding off the effects of cold ground draughts from spring north-easters, and can be removed bodily at the precise moment when their purpose is served and more light and air wanted for the new shrub growth.

However rigidly we may insist on shrubs forming the mainstay of the garden, the picture is given added interest and finish as a composition by the inclusion of smaller plants such as those mentioned. They also perform a useful function in covering the ground temporarily while the young shrubs are slowly growing to their full size. For any growth is better for the health of the soil than bare earth.

MICHAEL HAWORTH-BOOTH.

## SPRING IN THE FRUIT GARDEN

### SPRAYING AND DUSTING TO CONTROL INSECT AND FUNGUS PESTS

IT has been recognised for some years now among commercial growers that the only sure way to secure good crops of clean, unblemished fruits, first class both in quality and appearance, is to undertake a regular programme of spraying as a prevention against insect and fungus attack. It is a form of insurance that no grower, large or small, can afford to neglect if he desires to gather fruit of the best quality, and this year, more than ever, when the production of fruit and vegetable crops is a matter of vital interest, spraying assumes even greater importance. Investigation and experiment during late years have afforded ample proof of the wisdom of the regular use of approved spraying fluids to check the spread of these insect pests and fungus diseases that are only too familiar to all who grow fruit. Sporadic spraying when the trouble is apparent, if it does no harm, does little good, and can only be considered at best as an accessory measure of value. Regular treatment is essential if spraying is to yield the best results, and a thorough programme of spraying in the winter, early and late spring should be regarded as much a part of the routine duties of the fruit-grower as manuring and pruning.

Notwithstanding the remarkable progress that has been made in the production and application of spraying washes, there is as yet no general wash that can be employed to remedy all the troubles to which fruit trees are heir. Recourse must still be had, despite the efficacy of the winter tar-oil washes, to several sprays for use at different seasons, to control the various distinct pests and diseases. There is no spray, for instance, which combines the properties of insecticide and fungicide, and, excellent as a winter spraying is, it must be supplemented by a spraying in the spring with another wash, to check and control fungus pests, against which the tar-oil washes of winter are of no avail.

As soon as the fruit trees come into leaf, the application of other sprays than the tar oils or emulsions becomes necessary, to prevent

any fungus infection of the new crops, and for use as a spring spray, there is nothing better in a general way than lime-sulphur. This is a most efficient fungicide, checking the spread of many diseases, including mildew, the disfiguring scab disease of apples and pears, and brown rot. It also helps materially in reducing infection from certain other pests, notably aphids, the first hatchings of which synchronise with the unfolding of the bud scales. Another of its uses is that it prevents bud attack by birds. Gooseberries and currants in particular, which suffer badly in the spring, benefit from a timely application of a thin coating of spray on the buds which renders them unpalatable.

Lime-sulphur is made by boiling lime and sulphur for a certain time, but it is hardly worth while to make it at home, as supplies can be purchased readily at comparatively low prices, and these only need dilution with water to make a suitable spray. Generally speaking, the strength of the solution to check fungus diseases and aphides is about one gallon of the concentrated solution to thirty gallons of water. A spray such as this will also help in checking red spider on apples and gooseberries, and will do much to improve the health of raspberry canes showing a tendency to "die back." Experience shows, too, that it is by far the best spray for preventing "big bud" and reversion of black currants, provided it is carried out at the right moment, which is when the leaves are just unfolding and before the unopened flower trusses appear from the tiny leaf clusters.

For apples and pears afflicted with scab, both lime-sulphur and Bordeaux mixture are in general use by growers, the one having certain advantages over the other with certain varieties. With apples, the first application of the lime-sulphur should be given just as the blossoms are in what is termed the "pink-bud" stage, sprayed on as a fine mist so that the closed pink blossoms and the small leaves are completely covered with a thin film of the spray. It is important to cover all the



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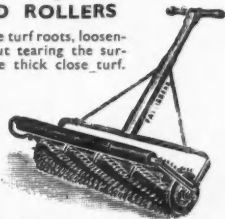


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new growths, as it is on the young leaves and developing shoots that the fungus spores germinate and spread infection. As the trees soon make rapid growth at this season and make new wood it is customary to apply a second spray of lime-sulphur immediately the blossoms have fallen. On this occasion the spray should be weaker in strength, a solution of one part of lime-sulphur to fifty parts of water generally being considered sufficient. With a variety like Cox's Orange, which is rather delicate and susceptible to damage by lime-sulphur, an even more dilute solution is necessary, about 1 part in 100 being the recommended strength. These two sprayings are advisable on apples and pears alike, while for the latter a third is advisable about early June. Bordeaux mixture has its advantages with all those varieties, like Cox's Orange, which are susceptible to leaf injury by lime-sulphur, and is also of considerable value in preventing leaf-curl in peaches and nectarines, always provided it is applied immediately before the buds swell.

In gardens where, in the past, the fruit trees have been much attacked by caterpillars, it is a good plan to mix a certain quantity of lead arsenate with the lime-sulphur as a poison. About 4lbs. of lead arsenate to 100 gallons of lime-sulphur makes an effective wash that will deal with leaf-eating caterpillars and other biting grubs. It is best applied when the young leaves appear. In the same way nicotine can be added in place of lead arsenate, when the combined spray will serve not only as a check to fungus diseases but also to aphides, capsid bug and apple sucker.

To ensure economy both in time and material, a dull calm day should be chosen for spraying, and as mentioned previously, it is important to see that every part of leaf, stem and branches is covered with a thin film. Forceful spraying does little good. The wash should be applied as a fine mist which adheres to all surfaces. For this purpose, a good sprayer is very necessary, and for general garden purposes a portable knapsack of the Four Oaks or Martsmith types, or a wheeled tank machine, can hardly be bettered, the choice depending on the number of trees to be treated.

A hand-worked knapsack sprayer is



TOMATO A1

A new variety of good cropping qualities and producing medium sized fruits

satisfactory enough provided only a small amount of work is to be done, for the continuous pumping is fatiguing where many trees have to be dealt with. Compressed air machines are, on the whole, much better, as the pressure is well maintained during the whole operation, and both hands are free for use. A bucket pump or a continuous spraying syringe is useful to have as a supplement to a larger machine, and the same can be said of one of the newer dusting appliances, such as a bellows, a hand or knapsack duster or a rotary blower. Dusting has come much to the fore in recent years as a method of controlling insect and fungus pests, and in certain cases, the method has certain advantages over liquid spraying. The two methods should be regarded as complementary, however, and when the days are warm and calm, a dusting with approved powders might be much more profitably practised than it is. T.

#### A NEW TOMATO

In response to the plea of the Minister of Agriculture to grow as many vegetables as possible consistent with the needs of the household, many gardeners will no doubt have turned their attention to the production of vegetable crops under glass, thereby saving expense on the cultivation of ornamental plants and at the same time contributing to an increase in vegetable production. Under glass the chief summer crop is the tomato, and where a moderately heated house is available, the gardener cannot do better than devote it to this crop. Many excellent varieties are offered by seedsmen to suit individual tastes, and a recent addition to the list, called Webb's A1, is well worth a trial by those in search of a variety combining sound cropping qualities with medium-sized and well flavoured fruits. This newcomer is the result of a mating between the well known variety Emperor and a seedling, and the accompanying illustration shows its cropping powers and the medium size of the fruits. It is claimed by Messrs. Webbs, the raisers, that it has proved outstanding in trials, showing a freedom from the common trouble of "greenback," and with this in its favour and its other virtues, it should prove a desirable acquisition to the list of tomato varieties both for private garden and commercial cultivation.

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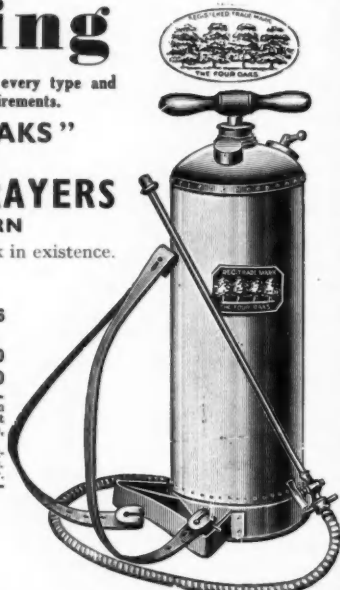
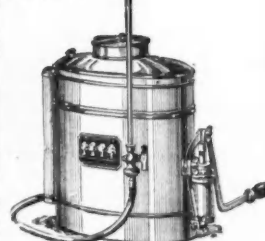
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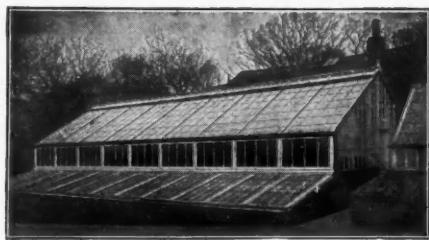
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# FASHION FAIR

By ISABEL CRAMPTON



*Dover Street Studios*

**E**VEN in these difficult days there are occasions when beauty must go beautifully clad, and the woman who wishes for an evening dress that will be both lovely and becoming could not do better than consider the one shown in this illustration. Made in a particularly fine moss crêpe in black over a black foundation and with carmine-coloured flowers em-

broidered at the waist, it is simplicity itself, and yet, how exquisite. The lovely long lines, the movement of the fabric, the wide sleeves, the perfectly drawn neckline, are points to notice; it is, in a word, a dress that is picturesque—as it were superior to fashion—and yet, in the fashion of the moment. It is from Margaret Marks of Knightsbridge, S.W.1.



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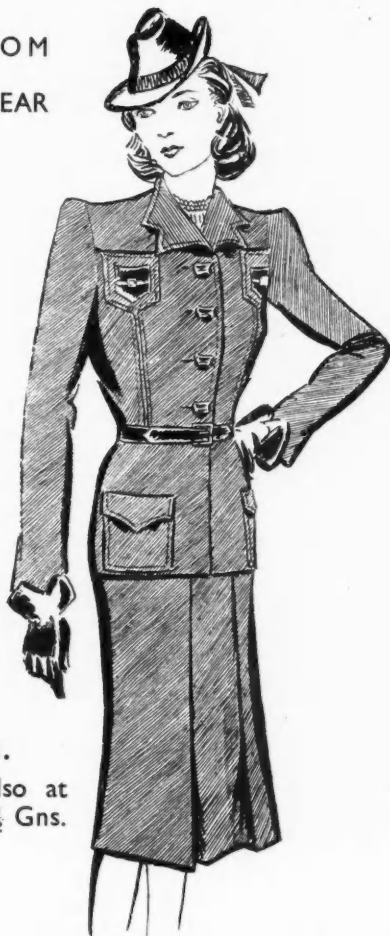


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## FOR THE EARLY SPRING

ONE of the ways in which we can, all of us, do something to resist the fell power which war exerts against many forms of beauty is to cherish it in our homes and in ourselves and our way of life, whenever it may be tended without neglecting sterner duties and more pressing obligations. Because of this it is imperative that our clothes—all the more if we do not now buy as many as we did—should be carefully chosen, and not only for utility but for their effect. An instance of combining prettiness and practicability is shown in the photograph of one of the new jumper and bolero sets from Gorrings, Buckingham Palace Road. Here is a most useful and cosy set, and worn, as it is in the illustration, with one of this year's Braemar skirts, nothing could be more spring-like or more becoming. In this instance the bolero and jumper were in a shade of pinkish mauve and the skirt in a delightful blue.

One of the very nicest ways in which one can wear the favours of the men who are fighting for us, and a present that a great many men in the Services are giving to "sweethearts and wives"—and mothers—is the set of scarf and bag in regimental colours which Gorrings are showing. They cost only twenty-five shillings and ninepence, and are beautifully finished and made of a lovely soft woollen weave. Two styles of bags are made and both are shown in the picture, one in Air Force colours—red and blue with Air Force blue narrow stripe—and the other in those of the Artists' Rifles, clear grey and black.

Anyone lucky enough to see Victor Stiebel's dresses when they were shown last week must have found it very difficult, for one hour at least, to believe that we are living through a world-shaking war. Such lovely colours, such glittering embroideries, such floating laces, such irresponsible hats and sumptuous furs: for the time being one could escape very well by merely concentrating on all this loveliness. Infinite variety was perhaps the most remarkable thing about the foretaste of fashion given to us. A very novel idea was a



*GORRINGE'S show the bolero, one of fashion's latest favourites, in wool, with its own jumper and worn with a contrasting skirt, also bags and scarfs in regimental colours.*



short evening coat made of numbers of small frills of black chiffon and worn over a close-fitting, long-sleeved scarlet gown. Touches of *lingerie* were used on dark dresses, and in one case a little white lace hat—literally made of wired lace, not merely with lace used as a covering—accompanied a little black dress with similar collar and trimmings. Novel, too, but not for every woman were knitted sleeves used with tweed jackets.

We have been told so often that full evening dress is not being worn at all that it was quite delightful to see so great an authority as Worth evidently of the contrary opinion. At his show last week several beautiful dresses were shown with flowing skirts and no sleeves, and the *décolletage* low in front and at the back—in some cases to the waist, a line which, for its lack of balance, I shall be glad to see consigned to limbo. Very attractive, and most becoming was a long frock with elbow sleeves fashioned in a black and white printed silk and finished with *paillettes* at the throat, and a cerise sash, and, to accompany it, its own black silk full-length coat cut on long slim lines and lined with the sash material. A day dress and coat called "Fuchsia" was carried out in a lovely shade of fuchsia red, a figured material for the dress and a plain one for the coat, with a hat of the same colour crowded with the indicated flower. A little black coat and skirt, with the coat close-fitting and nearly three-quarter length, was very much admired. With its short, narrow skirt it was certainly novel; if that skirt had been long and widened at the foot it would have been purely Edwardian. Coats and skirts for early spring in dark silks and foulards were most elegant productions which every woman in the audience must have coveted.



# "COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 526

A prize of books to the value of 2 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 526, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, February 29th, 1940.

## SOLUTION to No. 525

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of Feb. 17th, will be announced next week.

DREADNOUGHT OR  
UNES ISSUE  
PLANTAGENET CS  
EOTR ATILT  
GREYS ASIAN LA  
IX OAR D CLOU  
AAL MURAL AR  
NAMED OSTIA  
TI OPERA OIN  
KING ACUPNT  
IAC CLOSE SAGES  
LATHE AHNL  
LIRIGHTANGLES  
EVOKE ILEEN  
RNSABBATARIAN

## ACROSS.

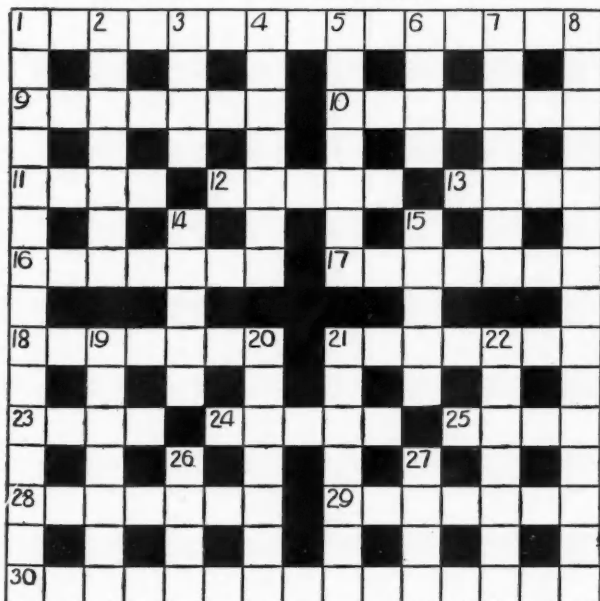
- Schlot (three words, 6, 2, 7)
- Releases—as the child does who is sick after eating too quickly? (7)
- Official for whom she goes to North Africa (7)
- But no ball comes out when the skipper makes his ship do it (4)
- County to which the Duke adds 24 (5)
- Fish for her (4)
- "That unspeakable shoe-black-seraph army of —" —Carlyle (7)
- A Persian cat wears its — but not to such a length (7)
- Not a lively setting for a cruise (two words, 4, 3)
- No vines could be expected to yield flesh (7)
- She's out of gaol (4)
- See 12 (5)
- Drink for a humourist (4)
- A bookworm's African paradise? (7)
- Clown-like (7)
- The pieces of a game take to sea in design (15)

The winner of Crossword No. 524 is  
W. J. Browne, Esq.,  
18, Mersey Avenue,  
Aigburth, Liverpool

## DOWN.

- Twice out? (three words, 6, 3, 6)
- "Bite, man!" (anagr.) (7)
- and 14. The Labrador of Africa? (two words, 4, 5)
- "He had often eaten — but had never had enough." —W. S. Gilbert (7)
- Not necessarily the state of garments after a 1 across (two words, 4, 3)
- Needs 27 to upset (4)
- What Amiens sang under the green holly (7)
- There's no cathedral for him to see (two words, 9, 6)
- See 3 down
- and 27. Usually the left about is (two words, 5, 4)
- It is composed of a large B, but uses other letters too (7)
- "But oh! that deep romantic chasm which slanted Down the green hill — a cedarn cover." —Coleridge (7)
- Bacon in a lordly dress (7)
- More servile than Slavonic (7)
- Basket (4)
- See 15 down.

## "COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 526



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EYES FOR BEAUTY AND FOR WORK  
A DOG'S DIET IN WAR-TIME  
LENTEN FARE  
HERRINGS HOT AND HERRINGS COLD  
THE HOUSEWIFE'S WAR-TIME CALENDAR OF HINTS  
CAN YOU MAKE AN OMELETTE?  
A LITTLE DINNER OF UNHACKNEYED DISHES

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REPLANTING YOUR SUMMER BORDER  
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